

NOV - 6 2006

November 3, 2006

Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division, FNS/USDA
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

GP 1223

Docket ID Number: 0584-AD77-WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels

I am writing to my express support of the Washington State WIC Nutrition Program for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages. I strongly support the intent of the changes in the proposed rule, which is a significant step forward to improve the overall health of WIC mothers and children, contributing to reductions in obesity and other diet-related chronic diseases.

The key points of my comments are summarized below, listed by content area.

Food packages and foods

- I support the changes proposed in food package II. However, I recommend the amount of infant cereal be reduced.
- I support the addition of commercial infant food fruits and vegetables, and fresh bananas in food package II
- I support the proposal not to allow low-iron formula through the WIC program
- I support the clarification that state agencies would not require verification of vitamin C content for 100 percent citrus juices
- I support all other changes in food package IV through VII, except as noted in the 8 items below
- I recommend single-grain corn and rice cereals be included, and that certain adult cereals be added for finger foods for developmentally-ready infants
- I urge FNS to allow states to expand the list of fruits and vegetables in food package II to include fresh, frozen or other canned fruits and vegetables
- I urge FNS to reconsider the addition of yogurt in quarts as a milk alternative
- I urge FNS to establish an alternative minimum nutrient standard for soy beverages
- I urge FNS to use this opportunity to recognize breastfeeding as a cost containment measure and to allow for conversion of food fund savings to Nutrition Services and Administration when supported by high breastfeeding rates
- I urge FNS to revise regulations regarding client sanctions to include wording in support of group-based food delivery systems
- I urge FNS to clarify ages for different infant food packages
- I oppose requiring medical prescriptions for non-dairy sources of calcium and additional cheese in food packages IV through VII

GP-1805

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2006 2:52 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME Maria Arreola-Lara
EMAIL marreola@solanocounty.com
CITY Fairfield
STATE CA
ORGANIZATION Health & Social Services
CATEGORY GeneralPublic
OtherCategory.
Date. October 05, 2006
Time 02:51:30 PM

COMMENTS

I agree with change fruits & vegetables and less juice

GP-1806

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Wednesday, October 11, 2006 11:57 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Marcia Hulberg
EMAIL: marciahulberg@comcast.net
CITY: Campbell
STATE: CA
ORGANIZATION: San Jose State University
CATEGORY: Other
OtherCategory: SJSU nutrition student
Date: October 11, 2006
Time: 11:56:43 PM

COMMENTS

This proposal represents the most significant and meaningful changes since the WIC Program's inception in 1974. The changes are necessary to ensure that the food packages will be consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the current infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In April 2005, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), mirroring many of their specific nutrition recommendations, issued a report entitled WIC Food Packages: Time for A Change.

The Time is Now!

GP-1807

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Thursday, October 12, 2006 11:32 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME. Alicia Smith
EMAIL alicia.smith@schools.utah.gov
CITY Salt Lake City
STATE: Utah
ORGANIZATION.
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory.
Date: October 12, 2006
Time 11:32:27 AM

COMMENTS

I love the proposed healthy changes to the WIC package. Finally, the package will be updated to reflect sound nutrition principles and healthy variety! And it's based on valid research, and sound health practices, NOT on which company can pay more for lobbying. At last, we are sending the message that the health of our nation is not for sale to the highest bidder/lobbyist! Thank you for taking the very important steps to make this a reality. Thank you for doing what is in your power to stem the tide of obesity and diabetes among a population that depends on us to care for them! Thank you for all you do.

GP-1808

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Saturday, October 14, 2006 5:59 AM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME Amy Wood
EMAIL WoodMenagerie@aol.com
CITY Binghamton
STATE NY
ORGANIZATION
CATEGORY. GeneralPublic
OtherCategory
Date October 14, 2006
Time 05:58:33 AM

COMMENTS

I am delighted with the proposed changes to the WIC Food Package. These changes will enhance the health and well being of families in the WIC program, which will in turn save taxpayer dollars by reducing health care costs. I am also very thankful for the revisions that specifically apply to breastfeeding. These revisions will help more breastfeeding mothers to succeed, and will also, hopefully, encourage more mothers to breastfeed.

GP-1809

From djdan [djdanis@gmail.com]
Sent Saturday, October 14, 2006 2:28 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages

Dear Friends at the US Department of Agriculture,

I grew up in a low income household and the WIC program helped my family and I get through the hardest part of our lives. I can not express my deep interest and value for this change to add Fruits and Vegetables to the new distribution program. Please highly consider this proposal. Thank you.

daniel vinh

GP-1810

MessageFrom Cyndi & Emilie [emailcyndi@tampabay rr com]

Sent Saturday, October 14, 2006 9 37 PM

To WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,

I think it is wonderful that you will finally be "rewarding" those moms who choose to breastfeed their babies. Human milk is best for human babies, and by supporting a mother in breastfeeding, you are helping insure that that child will be healthier for their entire lifetime!

I strongly support any efforts made to encourage mothers to breastfeed their children for at least the first two years of life.

Thank you,
Cyndi Schmitt
921 Virginia St
Dunedin, FL 34698

GP-1811

From: Cathleen Dinsmore [cdinsmore@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2006 7:38 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC guidelines

Hi,

I'd like to express my wholehearted support for the new WIC guidelines regarding nutrition for infants and children

Thank you!

Cathleen Dinsmore

GP-1812

From Joyce [jekimball@bigplanet.com]
Sent Sunday, October 15, 2006 12:24 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject Docket ID Number 0584-AD77 WIC Food Packages Rule

Hello,

Please change the WIC guidelines to include no formula for breastfeeding moms and more fruits, veggies, meat, low-fat and whole grains. Thank you!

Joyce Kimball
20 Sorrento Street
Worcester, MA 01602
508-757-4964

GP-1813

From bee'n friends child care [bee_n_friends_child_care@msn.com]
Sent Sunday, October 15, 2006 3:33 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: "Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Importance: High

PLEASE allow the changes to happen. It is incredibly important for children to get breastmilk even if it is a minimal amount. It is NOT OK to push formula to women who can produce even the smallest amount of breastmilk.

Thank you in advance for your support and the change !!!

Brenda Hodge

Proud breastfeeding mama to Emily Rayne (born May 22, 2006) AND to her sisters Meghan Nicole (May 19, 1992) and Savannah Kalyn (May 1, 2002)

GP-1814

From: Tommy Gossard and Virginia Morgan [tommyginny@arctic.net]

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2006 11:18 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Please allow the proposed changes to the WIC program. I'm especially pleased to see the addition of fruits and vegetables. About time!

GP-1815

From MELANIE VANDERWEIDE [amvanderweide@sbcglobal.net]

Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 5:09 AM

To WICHQ-SFPD

Subject Changes to WIC Food Program

I wholeheartedly agree with WIC's changes to be made to it's food program. As a former WIC client, a former La Leche League Member, an OB/GYN's wife as well as a breastfeeding mother, I know fully well of the benefits of wholesome nutrition. WIC is a wonderful program and I know that it can become even better with these implemented changes.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Van Der Weide

Fremont, MI

GP-1816

From Andrea Kelly [AndreaBKelly@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 12:14 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I am writing to encourage your continued support of the improvement of WIC food packages. The proposed changes would provide more nutritious, healthier foods to recipients. They also encourage breastfeeding, which is healthier for the mother and the baby in addition to being less costly.

I support the NWA positions on the USDA proposal to revise the WIC food package and urge USDA to finalize the rule with revisions as suggested by NWA as soon as possible.

Andrea Kelly
19300 Richwood Court
Brookeville, MD 20833-

GP-1817

From Judy Sloan [js71am@mail bellsouth net]
Sent Thursday, October 12, 2006 9 27 AM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject "Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

10-13-2006

I am writing in support of changes in the food selection for the WIC Program

It has been my experience that the restrictions are not serving the people in need of this program as well as they could

Changes I suggest

1. Sizes of items must be consistent with items sizes available in the stores
- 2 Choices need to be available Example It should be possible to purchase peanut butter of any kind, bread of any kind, fruits and vegetables of any kind, etc
- 3 Restrictions based on brands is not in the best interest of the family
- 4 It would be helpful if children's vitamins and prenatal vitamins could be included in the WIC program

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Judith Sloan
Hendersonville, NC 28739

GP-1819

Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages RuleFrom temp09
[temp09@kln.gov]

Sent Friday, October 13, 2006 1:32 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD, WICHQSFPD@fns.usda.gov

Cc: Onel, Suzan

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Attachments: DC-#855874-v1-OmtoolStub_(097618-
1_10_13_2006_01_23_08_PM).PDF

<<DC-#855874-v1-OmtoolStub_(097618-1_10_13_2006_01_23_08_PM).PDF>>

The attached letter has been sent on behalf of Suzan Onel, Esq



Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP

GP-1819

1601 K Street, N W
Washington, DC 20006-1600
202 778 9000
Fax 202 778 9100
www.klmg.com

October 13, 2006

Suzan Onel

202 778 9134
Fax 202 778 9100
sonel@klmg.com

Via Electronic Transmission and Overnight Delivery

Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Re: USDA Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, Proposed Rule Revisions in the WIC Food Packages

Dear Ms Daniels

On behalf of a client, we respectfully submit these initial comments with respect to the proposed rule issued by the Food and Nutrition Service ("FNS") of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") entitled, "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Revisions in the WIC Food Packages" ("proposed rule") This proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2006 71 Fed. Reg. 44784 (to be codified at 7 C F R Part 246)

We commend the FNS on its efforts to revise WIC food packages to better reflect current nutrition science and dietary recommendations We agree with the FNS when it stated in the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR"), 68 Fed Reg 53903 (Sept 15, 2003), that "public comment is necessary to inform decisions and to bolster the scientific and programmatic integrity" Id With this goal in mind, we respectfully request that the FNS consider extending the comment period on the proposed rule by 30 days to allow sufficient time to prepare and submit comments

I. Action Requested

As the FNS acknowledges in its preamble discussion to the proposed rule, once finalized, the proposed rule will implement the first comprehensive revisions to WIC food packages since 1980, including substantive changes to the current food packages and dietary recommendations 71 Fed Reg at 44784. Because the proposed rule is over 70 pages and represents "a dramatic change in infant food package issuance procedures," 71 Fed Reg. at 44795, we respectfully request that the period of time for comment be extended by 30 days to December 6, 2006, to provide industry and other interested parties sufficient time to review and comment on the proposed rule and prior administrative record on the WIC Program and its goals



Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP

Patricia N. Daniels

October 13, 2006

Page 2

II. Discussion

In issuing the proposed rule on revisions to WIC food packages, the FNS has asked for comments on a number of aspects of the proposed rule. Among others, the FNS specifically asked for comments on

“The three infant feeding options,”

“Impact of proposed changes on breastfeeding rates,”

“Staff training and building support for the proposed changes among WIC staff,”

“The expression of monthly maximum amounts of infant formula in reconstituted fluid ounces,”

“The methodology used to round up infant formula and infant foods,”

“Participant nutrition education,” and

“Administrative feasibility.”

71 Fed. Reg. at 44796. The FNS also requested input on “the potential impacts of the proposed changes to Food Packages I and II, and any comments or suggestions on alternative options for FNS to consider.” Id.

We believe these items and others are important factors to be considered when revising the WIC Program. However, we are concerned that the FNS has not provided industry and other interested parties sufficient time in which to prepare and submit comments given the length of the proposed rule and the complexity of issues.

The FNS’ proposed rule revising the WIC Program is over 70 pages. It includes 9 pages of proposed regulations, 29 pages of preamble discussion on the background to the proposed rule and its specific provisions, and 33 pages of analysis of the regulatory and economic impact of the proposed rule. Based on the mere size of this document, we believe that additional time is necessary for interested parties to thoroughly review, analyze, and prepare substantive comments to the proposed rule.

Furthermore, as evidenced by the length of the preamble discussion and the substantive nature of the proposed changes to the WIC Program, complex issues are being discussed and considered. Of note, the report produced by the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine (“IOM”) is over 200 pages. The FNS based its proposal on the IOM’s recommendations and comments.



Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP

Patricia N. Daniels

October 13, 2006

Page 3

submitted in response to the ANPR 71 Fed. Reg. at 44811. Thus, the administrative record that provides the basis for this proposed rule is significant.

We recognize that the FNS is being directed by Congress to move expeditiously in finalizing this rule. That being said, we believe it is important for the FNS to continue what has been a measured and timely process. The FNS issued the ANPR in September 2003, at the same time it commissioned the IOM study to independently review the WIC food packages in a 22-month study. The IOM report, which is over 200 pages long, was issued in April 2005, and the FNS issued the subject proposed rule in August 2006. Based on this administrative record, we do not believe a request for a 30-day extension of time to submit comments would unduly delay the issuance and implementation of final rule.

III. Conclusion

Based on the length of the proposed rule, the significance of the proposed changes, and complexity of the administrative record, we question whether comprehensive and cogent comments to the proposed rule can be provided within the limited time frame of three months. For this reason, we respectfully request that the FNS extend the comment period by 30 days to December 6, 2006.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these initial comments and welcome any questions the FNS may have on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzan Onel', written in a cursive style.

Suzan Onel

SO.rk

GP-1820

From: Purpleheather79@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2006 10:37 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID No. 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear USDA,

I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the WIC program. As an exclusively breastfeeding mother of twins, I have been disappointed in the WIC program offerings. I have 4 young children and the items provided for my older children are not very healthy. I believe that whole fruits are a much better option than the juice that is currently offered. I did not even enroll my 5-month old twins in the WIC program yet. They will be exclusively breastfed just like my other children and we do not start solid foods until around 1 year of age, bypassing all of the "baby foods". I think WIC needs to be more supportive in encouraging the efforts of breastfeeding mothers. I would even be so bold as to suggest that formula should NOT be provided by WIC without a doctor's prescription. Most mothers can, and SHOULD, breastfeed their babies. This would not only benefit the health of both mother and baby, but it would save the WIC program thousands (millions?) of dollars every year. I think it's sad that every time I visit my WIC office they ask if I need formula and act surprised that I decline.

While on the subject of breastfeeding, I'd just like to mention that it would be most helpful if WIC had breastfeeding peer counselors available at EVERY WIC location. More mothers need to be encouraged to eat nutritious food and exclusively breastfeed their babies.

Sincerely,

Heather Eckstein
Augusta, GA

GP-1821

From Laura Shive [mrsshive@yahoo.com]

Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 4:45 AM

To WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

As a mother of two, and pregnant with my third, and an educator, children's issues are dear to my heart. I am so excited to read about the proposed changes to WIC policy that will encourage breast feeding.

I have breast fed my own children and have seen the health benefits (such as fewer infections) first hand. It is unfortunate that women in lower income brackets are not provided with adequate information about the benefits of breast feeding, and are not given the financial support to be able to breast feed successfully (ie a family is able to get more "bang for the buck" from WIC by using formula).

Thank you for working to change this. Mothers and children will benefit greatly!

Laura Shive

Pennsylvania

GP-1822

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 11:02 AM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME JoAnn Woodard
EMAIL wojo79@tds.net
CITY Quartzsite
STATE: Arizona
ORGANIZATION
CATEGORY GeneralPublic
OtherCategory
Date October 16, 2006
Time: 11:01:45 AM

COMMENTS.

WIC is a wonderful program that helps so many people, my field is in nutrition, fresh fruits & vegetables are the most wonderful change of all, keep up the good work.

GP-1823

From Christine Morales [christine.morales@verizon.net]
Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 11:04 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC food package revisions

Thank you for proposing to make these changes!!! It makes sense from so many angles--- women's health, infant health and development, costs of a government program, etc. Formula is expensive and should not be encouraged as an alternative to poor women--- especially when we know breast milk is superior, and helping these women improve their diets in the process will only make their milk even better for their babies and improve the women's health in the process---not to mention the fact that breastfeeding will improve the bond women have with their babies and will help protect the women from cancer in the future.

Please follow through with this proposal! You are doing a great public service.

Thanks
Christine Morales

125 Hidalgo Drive, Hampton, VA 23669
(h) 851-7371 (c) 303-5775
christine.morales@verizon.net

GP-1824

From joan F Low [betsymine@juno com]
Sent. Monday, October 16, 2006 1 41 PM
To. WICHQ-SFPD
Subject Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

I wish to support the new guidelines for WIC which include more fresh produce, whole grains and simplified access to soy milk and tofu I get upset when I see pale, malnourished children

Sincerely,
Joan Foord Low
West Lafayette, Indiana

GP-1825

From Amanda Hartman [isaplan@yahoo.com]
Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 6:04 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rule

I am writing to tell you that I support the proposal to change the WIC foods. I look forward to being able to provide fruits, vegetables, and whole grain cereals for my family.

Thank you for reading my comments,

Amanda Hartman
1887 Century Hill
Platte City, MO 64079

GP-1826

From Angela England [ang england@yahoo com]
Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 6 09 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID #0584-AD77 WIC Food Packages

I am a mother of two under two and have nursed both my children exclusively so far. My first born until his first birthday, and so far my daughter for her full 5 months of life. I would love to see the proposed changes to WIC packages implemented. I feel offering a wider variety for breastfeeding mothers would ultimately help the children by increasing the nutrients in their diet.

Blessings,
Angela England
Atoka, OK

GP-1828

Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule
From: Patry, Karyn J
[karyn.patry@eds.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2006 6:54 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

As a mother of two breast-fed infants, I am glad to see the attention and care given to enhancements to the WIC program.

Great job!!!

GP-1843

From: saintjohnschurch@earthlink.net
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 5:29 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: saintjohnschurch@earthlink.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As one concerned for the health and well-being of all God's children, I am writing to express my support for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages.

These recommendations of the Institute of Medicine were published in their April 2005 report entitled, WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change. These changes are also consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and national nutrition guidance including those from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I heartily encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes. They hold a very real and achievable hope of benefitting the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Van Sant
St. John's Episcopal Church 325 Little Silver Point Road Little Silver, NJ 07739

GP-1938

From: rpearsal@utk.edu
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 12:01 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: rpearsal@utk.edu
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I used to work in a grocery store and remember being somewhat befuddled by the limited variety of items which were eligible for subsidized purchase under the WIC program. That's why I was heartened to hear, via the Episcopal Public Policy Network, that your office is considering expanding the list of WIC items to include fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grain products. I was also deeply confused and somewhat frustrated by the news that this proposal is controversial and may not be enacted.

I know you are as familiar as I am--and surely more so--with advances in our nutritional knowledge. We now understand how important fruits, vegetables, and grains are for the health of adults and children. This point is, or should be, noncontroversial and should be the deciding factor in your office's consideration of the proposed changes.

As a citizen, I am grateful that the Episcopal Public Policy Network alerted me to this important issue, which has received so little press coverage. I look forward to hearing your views on this matter and hope that you will take the concerns of citizens like myself to heart.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rachel C. Pearsall
504B Longview Rd
Knoxville, TN 37919

GP-1995

email from Sanders Henderson [sandershenderson@scsb.org] 11-06-06

Ms Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
2101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Ms Daniels,

As an educator and school administrator, I am concerned about the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Proposed Rule on Revisions to the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) supplemental food packages

My concerns are related to changes being made with regards to dairy products made available within the WIC package. Specifically, my concerns are as follows:

- * Milk: The proposed rule does not allow lactose free and reduced milk as the preferred substitutes for women and children who are lactose intolerant but rather includes soy beverage which is not nutritionally comparable to milk. Also, an across the board reduction in the amount of milk provided does not favor the nutritional status of WIC participants' nutrition.

- * Cheese: The proposed rule decreases the amount of cheese that can be substituted for milk.

- * Yogurt: The proposed rule does not allow yogurt as a milk substitution although a 2004 Institute of Medicine report, "WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change" recommends allowing yogurt.

In our school, we have a number of students who are indirectly affected by the WIC program, due to their parent's and sibling's participation in WIC. I feel it is in their best interest as well as their families' for me to support efforts to maintain the availability of dairy options. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Sincerely,

J Sanders Henderson III
Assistant Principal
Chilhowie Elementary School
Chilhowie, Virginia

GP-2005

From: patandgalal@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 7:31 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: patandgalal@yahoo.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Thank you and the FDA for the proposed changes to WIC. I am writing both as a citizen and a member of the Episcopal Church. I believe that it is our duty and privilege to take care of our children, who are the most vulnerable and unable to care for themselves. My goddaughter has been using WIC for her son who is now just over a year, and I have been very pleased with the healthy supplement to their diets, but concerned about the amount of juice that is allowed. My understanding is that juice should be drunk in moderation, but that whole fruits and vegetables are much better for you. Thus the proposed change will be great.

Also, I am very pleased with your change to require whole grain products. Since my father was diagnosed with diabetes, our whole family has changed our eating habits. One of the changes has been to brown rice and whole grain breads. It is amazing how quickly the white rice and white bread turn to sugar. We can all recognize now how much more satisfied we are after eating the whole grains. The desire to down a huge plateful of rice or a whole loaf of bread just isn't there. I am sure that this proposed change will have a significant impact on the rising number of cases of diabetes in this country.

Again, congratulations on some very good choices.

Sincerely,

Patricia Black
1167 Breen St
Crescent City, CA 95531

GP-2016

NAME Kiah Gerhardt
EMAIL bmagn2001@yahoo.com
CITY Medford
STATE: OR
ORGANIZATION Oregon Health & Science University
CATEGORY Other
OtherCategory Dietetic Intern
Date November 06, 2006
Time 01 21 56 AM

November 5, 2006

Kiah Gerhardt
517 Western Ave. # 23
Medford, OR 97501

Patricia Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22303

Dear Ms Daniels

REF Docket ID Number 0584-AD77-WIC Food Package Rule

As an Oregon Dietetic Intern, greatly invested in the health of Oregon's citizens, I am writing to show my support for the revisions in the WIC food packages proposed by the USDA. The following letter, written by the Community Food Security Coalition in Venice, California, powerfully demonstrates several reasons how and why these changes are necessary. I am in full support of their suggestions and insights as outlined below.

"In light of the severe health and dietary challenges confronting many Americans, especially lower income families and children, it is heartening to see a proposal that will allocate a greater share of public nutrition assistance resources for the healthiest foods available. The introduction of fruits and vegetables, particularly fresh ones, for the WIC food packages will not only encourage healthy eating for the program's mothers and children now, but will also encourage a lifetime of healthier eating for the future.

Over the last 30 years, farmers' markets have played an increasingly important role in bringing fresh, locally produced fruits and vegetables to the nation's communities. Because they have been particularly successful in making fresh produce available in lower income urban and rural areas, and especially to WIC participants, we focus our comments on the proposed revisions that address the inclusion of farmers' markets as eligible vendors.

According to USDA, there are now 3,740 U.S. farmers' markets (a number that is continuously growing) serving millions of consumers and providing tens of thousands of farmers with strong market outlets for locally produced food. They operate in every state, nearly every major city, and can be found in almost every county. Farmers' markets have been enormously successful in bringing a wide selection of affordable, extremely fresh, and locally grown produce to places that have been traditionally underserved by other forms of affordable, retail food outlets. Among other places, the acceptance of farmers' markets by WIC participants is evident in a Los Angeles research study (E. Jenks, et al., University of California, Los Angeles) that found that WIC participants redeemed 90.7 percent of their special fruit and vegetable coupons at a farmers' market compared to 87.5 percent at a supermarket even though the location and the hours of the supermarket were more convenient.

To be successful in underserved, often lower income neighborhoods, farmers' markets have had to learn the specific fresh food preferences of their residents. This has frequently meant that farmers have tailored their crop selection and marketing to the traditional food preferences of a wide variety of racial and ethnic minority groups, and in many cases, newly arrived refugee and immigrant groups. Such efforts have sometimes been aided by programs that provide training and start-up needs to new and immigrant farmers who are from the same communities as WIC shoppers. The result is that new farmers are growing and marketing food at farmers' markets that is preferred by these same minority, refugee, and immigrant groups.

All in all, farmers' markets have improved the access of some of America's most nutritionally vulnerable people to fresh, affordable produce. And without good access to healthy food, nutrition education and increased buying power will have little effect.

A complementary aspect of farmers' market growth in low-income communities has been the development and gradual expansion of USDA's WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), started in 1989 and further extended by the development of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program in 2001. The WIC FMNP now operates in 46 states, U.S. territories, and tribal nations and served approximately 2.7 million WIC recipients in 2005, a number which represents a third of all WIC recipients. Surveys conducted over the years by state and tribal agencies, which administer the WIC FMNP consistently find that the modest benefits provided to WIC recipients (usually about \$20 per recipient annually) result in greater consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables among recipients. When WIC offices and other participating organizations, including the farmers and farmers' markets themselves, provide nutrition education information and activities to WIC recipients, the value of the FMNP vouchers is enhanced and the long-term

consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is more likely to occur. Just as farmers' markets have brought fresh produce to economically distressed communities, the FMNP has brought more socially and economically disadvantaged families to farmers' markets.

The WIC FMNP has two major benefits that will enhance the effectiveness of providing special produce vouchers that can be redeemed at farmers' markets. First, the FMNP coupons in themselves provide a strong boost to the viability of low-income farmers' markets, many such markets might not operate without such a program. Secondly, by operating WIC FMNPs, states and tribal organizations have developed the organizational and administrative capacity they will need to operate the proposed WIC produce voucher program. The current procedures for WIC FMNP benefit distribution, redemption, and accountability are very consistent with the proposed revisions pertaining to fruit and vegetable vouchers. FMNP agencies (generally state health and agriculture departments) now issue vouchers that range in value from \$2 to \$5. They have voucher tracking and other accountability procedures as well as procedures to authorize participating farmers and farmers' markets. Additionally, both the development of farmers' markets and the implementation of the WIC FMNP require working partnerships and collaborations between multiple agencies and organizations, both public as well as private. These experiences and practices, developed over the course of 17 years of operating the WIC FMNP, should allow state and tribal WIC agencies to make a relatively smooth transition to the implementation of the proposed fruit and vegetable voucher system.

In order for WIC recipients to secure as much nutritional value as possible from the use of the proposed fruit and vegetable WIC vouchers at farmers' markets, we offer the following comments and recommendations for inclusion in the WIC Food Package regulations:

- USDA shall do no harm to the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program either through reducing current funding levels or establishing rules, systems, or procedures at the federal or state levels that would adversely affect the operation and effectiveness of the WIC FMNP.
- Coordination shall be required between the proposed WIC fruit and vegetable voucher program and all existing and future federal-state WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs.
- Farmers and farmers' markets that are currently authorized under state WIC FMNP procedures shall be automatically eligible for vendor specification under the new fruit and vegetable voucher program. These WIC FMNP farmer and farmers' market authorization procedures shall also be applied by states in the future vendor specification process.
- States shall be required to allow farmers' markets as eligible vendors for fresh fruits and vegetables, with the provision that they comply with farmers' and farmers' market authorization procedures.
- Farmers and farmers' markets that are currently authorized under state WIC FMNP procedures shall be automatically eligible as WIC vendors for the new fruit and vegetable vouchers issued by the WIC program. The WIC FMNP farmer and farmers'

market authorization procedures shall also be applied by states as the vendor requirements for farmers or farmers' markets for this program.

- With respect to vendor requirements, farmers' markets shall be allowed to participate as seasonal vendors since most farmers' markets in the country are unable to operate year round. Similarly, farmers' markets shall be exempt from the "WIC-only" cost containment requirement and shall not be required to carry a full-range of WIC food package products.
- When practicable, states should seek to develop systems for the distribution and use of fruit and vegetable vouchers that are compatible with existing WIC FMNP procedures. Nutrition education efforts and state and local promotion of fresh fruit and vegetable vouchers should be compatible with and seek to take advantage of existing WIC FMNP education and promotion practices. States should be encouraged to reduce the administrative costs associated with a fruit and vegetable voucher system by developing systems that are compatible with their respective WIC FMPs.
- In the event that states adopt EBT technology for the use of nutrition benefits by WIC recipients, farmers' markets must also be provided with the most practical EBT systems for the fruit and vegetable redemption process.

With respect to all vendors that may be specified under this program and other key operational issues for the new fruit and vegetable voucher program, the Community Food Security Coalition recommends the following rules:

- State agencies shall not have the authority to limit the range of fruit and vegetable items that may be purchased with fruit and vegetable vouchers, though preference shall be given to fresh fruits and vegetables first, then to frozen, and lastly canned.
- There shall be a cost of living adjustment reflected in the value of the vouchers in order to keep pace with inflation.
- The denomination of fruit and vegetable instruments shall be in small amounts such as \$1.00 and \$2.00 denominations.
- No change shall be given for vouchers that don't purchase their full denominational value.
- Consistent with Institute of Medicine's recommendation, we support the amount of \$10 per month of fruits and vegetables for mothers and \$8 for children.
- State advisory groups shall be established to develop the most effective and responsive system possible for operating the fruit and vegetable voucher program. Where states and/or municipalities have food policy councils, their participation in the advisory process is strongly encouraged.
- Just as farmers' markets have been pioneers in making the best fruits and vegetables available to people and places that need them the most, CFSC recommends that WIC encourage the availability of high quality fresh fruits and vegetables in all outlets that serve WIC recipients. In this regard the national WIC Program should consider implementing pilot projects that test various methods of increasing access to fresh produce in a variety of retail food outlets, including farmers' markets, in areas that are poorly served by such outlets."

“...I thank you for the forward-looking proposal to make fruits and vegetables a regular part of the WIC food package. This advance in the food package will not only prove immeasurably valuable for lower income women and children, but also assist the nation's family farmers for whom farmers' markets are essential to preserving their livelihoods. Farmers' markets can make a substantial contribution to the success of this new initiative, one that promises to provide a healthy tomorrow for all Americans.”

In addition to the above comments I would like to suggest a revision to the proposed fruit juice in WIC food packages. Fruit juice provided to children in bottles or in large quantities are shown to promote dental caries. Furthermore, increasing rates of obesity in childhood is linked to excessive intakes of simple sugars which is found in fruit juice. In addition, growing research indicates greater health benefits from eating whole foods due to the presence of phytosterols and other beneficial compounds. Though fruit juice does contain vitamin C it lacks fiber and other compounds found in the whole fruit form. I recommend replacing the proposed 128 fl oz of fruit juice with an increase of \$2 per month for additional fruit and vegetables on the cash value voucher.

Sincerely,

Kiah Gerhardt

GP-2017

email to wichq-sfpd 11-06-06 from Linda Ninh [lninh02@hotmail.com]

November 6, 2006

Ms Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services
U S Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

RE Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As a minority, I strongly urge for the expansion of the food package available to the WIC participants. Although the food packages seemed nutritionally sufficient for all families, there are flaws that need to be fixed. The packages should be able to be updated and become consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. For instance, the dairy aspect of the food package is not nutritionally adequate. This is especially needed for pregnant women and growing children. Another specific area that needs to be updated to is the fruits and vegetables. The package should be expanded to cover more fruits and vegetables to encourage the families to eat a healthier lifestyle. Even though these changes may seem small, they consequently result in fewer incidences of malnutrition. The incidents of families with poor socioeconomic backgrounds are increasing every single day, especially in minorities. Most of the minority community does not even know that proper nutrition is necessary. Even with jobs, the access to more nutritional foods is still limited. Therefore, poor malnutrition is still prevalent throughout most parts of the country. If we have the chance reduce the incidents of hunger and malnutrition, then we should take the chance to do so. Malnutrition as a whole can lead to disease, and even death. Families should have the opportunity to be able to avoid malnutrition. It is unlikely we can save the country overnight, but we should take every step we can to reduce malnutrition. Through the expanded food package, this goal can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Linda Ninh
Student

GP-2020

From: Michelle Aguilos [pnayviolet@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 11:21 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule, Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Attachments: wic comments.doc

November 6, 2006
The Honorable Ted Poe
1605 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6565

Email: wichq-sfpd@fns.usda.gov

RE: Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Dear Congressman Poe,

Thank you for your continued effort to better the lives of Americans. My name is Michelle Aguilos and I am a nutrition undergraduate student at the University of Houston. I write to you in support of the USDA-FNS 7 CFR Part 246 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

As you know, WIC is our nation's premier public health nutrition program. In an effort to improve the life-long health of women, infants, and children, I support this proposal to modify the food packages. First, the proposed food packages will provide greater amounts of nutrients that are needed by the WIC population. The proposal is consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and is a major stepping stone toward an overall improvement in the nutritional health and well-being of these mothers and children.

By adding fruits and vegetables to the food packages, the risk for health-related problems including obesity and chronic diseases (cancer, stroke, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes) significantly decrease. This also promotes the adequate intake of priority nutrients including Vitamin A, C, folate, potassium, and fiber. Next, I support the quantities of dairy products and egg products offered in this proposal. It includes alternative milk products for those who have allergies. This is important because current standards in the marketplace do not meet the minimum requirements for protein and potassium as recommended by the FDA and industry standards.

Finally, I believe the whole grain requirement for cereals and the introduction of whole grain bread and other whole grains such as corn tortillas and brown rice is necessary. Consumption of these items has shown to decrease the risk of coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, digestive system, and hormone-related cancers. In addition, it assists in the maintenance of healthy weight and increases the intake of dietary fiber.

As a future mother and health educator, I urge you to support this proposal. These changes will provide WIC professionals with the necessary tools to reinforce the nutrition education messages and promote healthier food choices. This proposal will provide millions of mothers and children with WIC's positive nutritional support.

Thank you for your consideration,
Michelle Aguilos
Nutrition Undergraduate Student
University of Houston

November 6, 2006

**The Honorable Ted Poe
1605 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6565**

Email: wichq-sfpd@fns.usda.gov

**RE: Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77.**

Dear Congressman Poe,

Thank you for your continued effort to better the lives of Americans. My name is Michelle Aguilos and I am a nutrition undergraduate student at the University of Houston. I write to you in support of the USDA-FNS 7 CFR Part 246 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

As you know, WIC is our nation's premier public health nutrition program. In an effort to improve the life-long health of women, infants, and children, I support this proposal to modify the food packages. First, the proposed food packages will provide greater amounts of nutrients that are needed by the WIC population. The proposal is consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and is a major stepping stone toward an overall improvement in the nutritional health and well-being of these mothers and children.

By adding fruits and vegetables to the food packages, the risk for health related problems including obesity and chronic diseases (cancer, stroke, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes) significantly decrease. This also promotes the adequate intake of priority nutrients including Vitamin A, C, folate, potassium, and fiber. Next, I support the quantities of dairy products and egg products offered in this proposal. It includes alternative milk products for those who have allergies. This is important because current standards in the marketplace do not meet the minimum requirements for protein and potassium as recommended by the FDA and industry standards. Finally, I believe the whole grain requirement for cereals and the introduction of whole grain bread and other whole grains such as corn tortillas and brown rice is necessary. Consumption of these items has shown to decrease the risk of coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, digestive system, and hormone-related cancers. In addition, it assists in the maintenance of healthy weight and increases the intake of dietary fiber.

As a future mother and health educator, I urge you to support this proposal. These changes will provide WIC professionals with the necessary tools to reinforce the nutrition education messages and promote healthier food choices. This proposal will provide millions of mothers and children with WIC's positive nutritional support.

Thank you for your consideration,
Michelle Aguilos
Nutrition Undergraduate Student
University of Houston

GP-2021

From Mary Rooney [rooneym@adorers.org]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 12:22 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

November 6, 2006
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Patricia Daniels
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Patricia Daniels,

FNS/USDA
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302
RE: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I want you to know I support USDA's proposed new WIC food packages rule. I commend USDA for updating the WIC food packages to reflect the Dietary Guidelines and current nutritional science by adding fruits, vegetables, whole grain bread, corn tortillas, and the option of soymilk and tofu, and moving to low-fat milk and whole grain cereals.

The following recommendations would help strengthen the proposed rule:

- *Increase the fruit and vegetable benefit by \$2
- *Allow WIC participants to choose the kinds of fruits and vegetables they want
- *Revise the proposed cereal standard to include whole grain corn-based (i.e. corn flakes), rice (i.e. puffed rice) and bran (i.e. bran flakes) WIC cereals
- *Remove the requirement for children to have a prescription to obtain soy milk from WIC
- *Maximize access to Farmers' Markets and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for local seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- *Establish WIC state advisory councils of stakeholders to help support and inform the planning and implementation of the new food package

Thank you

Sincerely,
Mary Rooney
1165 S.W Blvd
Wichita, KS 67213-1419

GP-2022

NAME Tsz Man Wong
EMAIL terrywongfatcat@yahoo.com
CITY Houston
STATE TX
ORGANIZATION University of Houston
CATEGORY GeneralPublic
OtherCategory.
Date. November 06, 2006
Time 01 11 41 AM

COMMENTS

November 4, 2006

Ms Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services
U.S Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

RE Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the USDA's proposed regulations that substantially revise the WIC Food Packages. On behalf of the University of Houston and I commend the Department for proposing important changes to WIC that are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and align with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations. I believe that, when implemented, they will greatly strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families.

1 Fruits and Vegetables

I strongly support providing 8.2 million WIC mothers and young children with cash-value vouchers to purchase fruit and vegetables. I insist that USDA to work with Congress to secure increase federal funding in future years to bring the cash value of these fruit and vegetable vouchers up to the IOM-recommended level. This will improve WIC families to purchase and consume fruit and vegetables each day.

2 the Elimination of juice for all infants, substituting baby food fruits and vegetables

According to the AAP recommendations, reducing juice and replacing juice with infant food at six months are important. Infants should be introduced to fruits and vegetables at the appropriate age.

3 Alternatives to milk including calcium-set tofu, and calcium and vitamin D-rich soy beverage

These changes will provide the benefit to those WIC participants who suffer the medical consequences of milk protein allergy and lactose maldigestion and for those with cultural preferences for soy foods. However, there are no calcium-fortified soy-based beverages on the market that meet the proposed protein and potassium standards. I urge levels of 6.25 grams of protein and 250 milligrams of potassium per 8 ounce serving as minimum standards.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with USDA and the WIC program to implement these excellent food package improvements over the next few years. These changes will be a major policy lever to improve community food security, address the obesity epidemic, and help low-income families make healthier food choices.

Sincerely,

Tsz Man Wong
Student of the University of Houston

GP-2024

DeeDe21@aol.com

11-06-06 email

Dear Patricia N Daniels

This letter is in regards to the USDA's Food & Nutrition Service new proposal in accordance to update food packages for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, known as WIC. I am in great support for the new food packages. The new and improved program provides women, infants, and children with healthier food choices, especially the addition of fresh fruits and vegetables. Many food guides and other recommendations emphasize that a wide variety of foods help achieve dietary adequacy. Any improvising to the food package program will not only offer healthier foods, but will be educating the importance of healthy eating habits to participants.

I support the new food program because it's consistent with the Dietary Guidelines. These guidelines are a great platform to adequate nutritional intakes of many vitamins and minerals. Many women of child bearing age and young children are potentially at risk for deficiency in iron and calcium. Providing foods of whole grains, fruits and vegetables will reduce deficiencies. In acceptance to the epidemic of obesity in young children, the new food package program helps eliminate fat content, especially saturated fat. More importantly, the new food program has become sensitive to the vast minorities living in this country and will grant variety and choice to accommodate the diversity of our country.

The support of the new food program will be a great success to USDA and to the woman, infants, and children who are in need of their support. The WIC program was established to improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating females with low-income families, the new food program is another great beginning. Please take in consideration of the new proposal and guide participants to healthier eating habits and better lifestyle.

Thank you for your time,

Diane Baba

OCT - 4 2006

Mitchell Mund

ADMITTED IN
N Y and N J

ATTORNEY AT LAW
100-15 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, New York 11375-2452

GP-2126

TEL (718) 261-MUND
(718) 261-6863
FAX (718) 261-5709

September 29, 2006

Attn: Patricia N. Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Re: Comments

Dear Ms Daniels.

We are writing with reference to the Proposed Rules affecting changes to the WIC Program (7CFR Part 246). Our office represents the National Supermarket Association and the comments herein express the opinion of that organization

We are addressing each issue although not necessarily in the order set forth in the Proposed Rules

It has been proposed that the State maintain a list of licensed wholesalers, distributors, retailers and manufacturers through whom infant formula could be purchased. In fact, this requirement places an undue burden on the Vendors. Most WIC Vendors ("Vendors") deal with dozens if not hundreds of suppliers of products within their stores. This includes numerous jobbers, sub-jobbers and other sales persons. It would be an impossible burden for the store to verify the validity of the source of each and every purchase or to contact the State in order to ascertain the status of the supplier. The proposed regulations fails to address suppliers located outside of the State nor provide a methodology for legitimizing those suppliers. In fact, the proposed regulations appear to sanction a State not allowing purchases from suppliers in another State. This could have a severe effect on interstate commerce placing an undue burden on the retailer and severely affect the ability of Vendors to obtain proper product at proper prices.

The stated criteria was to prevent the sale of "adulterated stolen infant formula". The solution for that problem would be to prohibit the sale of "adulterated stolen infant formula". These Vendors are engaged in extensive purchasing and need to protect the integrity of their

products regardless of the WIC requirements. In most cases the Vendor has security measures to ascertain and guaranty that their products are not adulterated. However, the solution of this issue is not the requirement of tracking down all sources of the purchased formula. The solution is to mandate that the sale of formula should not be "adulterated stolen formula". The true test is whether the Vendor believes the source to be legitimate and believes that the product is unadulterated, not to compel an investigation by the Vendor in order to complete a purchase.

There is no real criteria to establish a qualified supplier of the formula since there is no nationwide supply list nor any requirement for same, no mandate to the State to require out of State suppliers, no method to control a uniform method of qualifying suppliers nor any method to allow a supplier to be placed on any list. Such a methodology could effectively exclude any number of legitimate sources of the formula. Additionally, to our knowledge there is no significant problem in New York concerning "adulterated stolen infant formula". A cross section of our membership confirms that they have not had instances of such a claim affecting their products.

This proposed legislation proves not only burdensome but costly to the program. It requires the maintenance of large numbers of records, distribution of same to Vendors as well as appropriate staffing to answer questions, resolve problems and address disputes. The essence of this provision is to restrict trade and, possibly, to have the government serve as an agent for the manufacturer. This clearly cannot and should not be the intent of the WIC program. The method of controlling the program is to prohibit adulterated stolen infant formula from being allowed to be sold, not to attempt to control the ordinary and necessary transactions which occur in an instantaneous manner on the floor of a supermarket.

The proposed regulations also speak in terms of enhancing the due process elements of the enforcement provisions of the program by providing Vendor with an opportunity to correct a violation. The Association is in fully in support of such a regulation and, in fact, has been a proponent of same for many years. Unfortunately, the current regulation fails to properly draw a distinction between a violation and a violation which compromises an investigation. In most instances, Vendors are unaware of violations occurring within the store since they are staffed by numerous employees, many of whom are part timers and young adults. Although the Vendor strives to have a properly functioning program, it is impossible to monitor each and every WIC transaction.

New York State typically uses a system of compliance buys to establish the methodology in which a store operates. If the regulations provide that notification of a violation be furnished subsequent to the compliance buy, the Vendor would be afforded the opportunity to correct that violation. However, if the compliance buy is deemed an "investigation" the retailer is once again left defenseless since knowledge of the violation will only occur upon completion of the investigation and, presumably the issuance of some sanction. Any proposed regulations should define that upon the initial discovery of any violation, such fact would be transmitted to the Vendor. Such a transaction would not be deemed an "investigation" and accordingly, would not be excludable from the notice provisions.

The WIC Program functions under the concept of strict liability thereby, in most instances, denying the Vendor an opportunity to resolve any problems which, in many instances,

is the result of improper employee conduct. By providing specific notification, the Vendor would have the opportunity to better protect the program as well as preserve his ability to participate in the program and serve the participants. The investigation function could be involved where the principal of the Vendor is specifically implicated in the compliance buy.

As to the inflationary change to the CMP, any such change shall occur prospectively, not retroactively. Accordingly, the inflationary calculation should commence upon passage of the final rules as opposed to an immediate increase in the amount of those penalties.

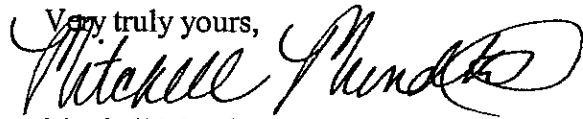
The proposed rules concerning 50% stores, to the best of our knowledge, does not effect New York State as it is our belief that 50% stores do not exist in New York State. However, the inclusion of these new rules do pose the risk of the improper removal of a store from the program as a result of administrative error, errors in record keeping as well as misunderstanding of the regulations. Since the ultimate goal of the WIC Program is to provide adequate participants access to WIC stores the removal of same from the program would only serve to diminish participants access as well as create the administrative cost of identification and removal from the program. As to New York State such an expense would be an unnecessary drain on the New York budget.

The proposal of the establishment of a new peer group system in New York State, would defeat the purpose and, in fact, have an adverse effect on the current peer system used by New York State. The current system for geographic guidelines which appear to be adequate in accomplishing the goals of the peer system. Once that system is changed to a peer system requiring multiple criteria, that criteria can be unnecessarily discriminatory and adversely affect both participants and Vendors. There is no mechanism for accounting for the vast array of purchasing power of different stores in a particular neighborhood which may have Vendors who are chain stores, independent supermarkets or groceries. Each such group has criteria which would overlap into the other group. Yet, each such group brings attributes to the program which benefit the participants, including but not limited to ability to serve the participants, different presentation of WIC products, proximity to the participants home and countless other benefits. Once an attempt is made to segment these various categories, the inequities are inevitable. Similarly, different stores have different purchasing power depending upon the method by which the store operates which can prove beneficial to the WIC Program. To attempt to quantify these benefits would inevitably prove inefficient, inaccurate and costly. As an example, a chain store may be able to purchase canned items on a bulk basis but may not be flexible enough to put boxed items on sale and to maintain that sale for a period of time. Independent stores may have the benefit of buying specials which would reduce WIC cost on a spontaneous basis. Yet, throwing all such entities into different peer groups would not provide a basis with which to measure each group separately and accurately. The current sample criteria method used by New York State has proved functional and accurate and should remain the system implemented.

As to the changes proposed for the WIC package, the Association supports the proposed expansion and modification of acceptable WIC food products. These proposed changes appear to reflect true market conditions as well as a change in participant preferences and also reflect a change in food items without a diminution in the nutritional value of the food being purchased by the participants. The recent pilot program implemented for produce proved very successful and illustrated a move in the right direction by the WIC Program.

----- Please consider the above comments in reaching your determination on the new rules. -----

Thank you

Very truly yours,

Mitchell Mund

MM.kr

GP-2147

From: nlink@umich.edu
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2006 6:42 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

It has come to my attention that the FDA is proposing changes that will make it impossible for WIC recipients to use their benefits at farmers markets. These changes must not be approved to prevent consumers from taking advantage of the benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables

Farmers markets provide food that is healthy, sustainably grown, and often cheaper than anything from a supermarket, and people should be encouraged to find and support them. Requiring special food packaging and limiting the types of fruits and vegetables that can be purchased creates an unfair disadvantage for local sellers and buyers. Please address these consequences of the FDA's changes to make farmers markets accessible to everyone.

Noah Link
nlink@umich.edu
Ann Arbor, MI

GP-2148

From Lizzy Koltai [Elizabeth.N.Koltai@williams.edu]
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2006 9:59 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC and Farmers' Markets

Providing fresh fruits and vegetables is key to the nutrition of women and children and an excellent addition to the WIC program. However, this change should not detract from the ability of WIC users to get these items from Farmer's Markets. These markets help keep money within local economies, rather than funneling it into the hands of the large agribusiness corporations. Fighting all sides of poverty means supporting the small sellers as well as the recipients of WIC coupons. Furthermore, parents should have a choice to give their children pesticide and GMO free food. Local, organic food doesn't just taste better- its often more nutritious and safer for consumption. As the spinach scare last month showed, the consolidation of our food supply has led to a lack of accountability and safeguards in the production chain. Farmer's Markets provide a healthy alternative and should be accessible to all people, not just the rich.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth N. Koltai,
Palo Alto, California

GP-2149

From: Winnie Fay Bell [bell.w@neu.edu]
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2006 4:31 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Concern about WIC coupons/Farmers Markets

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Greetings,

I am thoroughly concerned about some recent news I just heard about the new legislation being passed that no longer allows WIC coupons to be used at farmers markets. Although it is wonderful that the WIC coupons will be including more fruits and vegetables, I believe that it is a huge mistake to not have them applicable to farmers markets any longer. Focusing on local economies is a huge part of eliminating poverty in this country.

I urge you to deeply reconsider.
Best wishes for a beautiful day,

Winnie Bell
46 Westland Ave
Boston MA 02115

GP-2150

From: gscoble@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 12:31 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD

Please do not deprive mothers and children on WIC programs from buying food at farmers markets. You will just cause more trouble by depriving vulnerable people of healthy food.

Genevieve Coyle 230 Lake View Ave Cambridge MA 02138

GP-2156

From: mpearce@wesleyan.edu
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 6:22 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Please preserve WIC Farmers Market Program

To Whom It May Concern,

Please preserve the WIC Farmers Market Program. It is a really great way for families with limited resources to meet their dietary needs affordably. PLEASE do not do anything to undermine the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. In addition to providing great value to low-income families, Farmer's Markets are a place where low-income families can have a chance to meet and network with their neighbors which may in turn lead to more employment opportunities and a better chance of breaking out of the cycle of poverty. Thank you.

Sincerely, Miles Pearce

p s I do not work for any Farmer's Market or farmer. I just care about the people who grow our food and those who need it most.

From: Elaine Campbell [ercampbell@wesleyan.edu]
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 10:51 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: FMNP

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Fresh fruits and vegetables are an essential part of a healthy diet. Indeed, they should be the basis of one.

Farmers' markets provide an excellent source of fresh produce while enriching the surrounding community. By maintaining the use of benefits of WIC at farmers' markets, an important aspect of community is maintained while providing WIC participants access to fresh, local produce. Please keep WIC benefits usable at farmers' markets.

Sincerely,
Elaine Campbell

GP-2164

From: anniedfox@gmail.com on behalf of Anne Fox [adfox@wesleyan.edu]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10 51 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Protect WIC

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) was started to supplement the WIC program, because its benefits package did not include fresh fruits and vegetables. However, the proposed changes to the WIC program will change those benefits so that fruits and vegetables are a part of the overall food package. This is wonderful -- in theory. We all know that fruits and vegetables are crucial to good health, especially for the young children and expecting and nursing mothers who benefit from the WIC program.

However, as the changes to the WIC programs are currently written, it could be nearly impossible for these benefits to be used at farmers' markets. FMFM and other agricultural organizations nation-wide are working to make sure that the new WIC benefits can be used at farmers' markets to supplement the existing Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. In order for this to happen, the WIC changes would need to be implemented very carefully, and with special attention to the following concerns (and thanks to our colleagues at the Community Food Security Coalition in California for identifying these concerns). Please do not support these changes, keep the WIC program as a vital source of healthy food options for America's underprivileged people.

Anne Fox

New York, NY, 10025.

GP-3280

From. kikist@mac.com

Sent Saturday, October 21, 2006 2 34 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Cc eli@gotmercury.org

Subject. Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

RE: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels:

I am a concerned female teenager, who would like to help awareness of mercury with WIC I find it wrong how mothers only have the choice of canned tuna available for them, when canned wild salmon would be much better I have noticed that the majority of my friends, and their parents have no clue about mercury, and the harm it holds. I am definitely not an expert myself, and that is the exact reason which makes me more concerned Please help me out! It would be great to see what the USDA could do to help with this problem. Thank you so much for listening!

Sincerely,

Serenoa Steiner PO Box 400 Forest Knolls, CA 94933 kikist@mac.com

From: Tyson Bower [tyson57@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 3:30 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Hi! On behalf of the Student Nutrition Association at The University of Houston, I would like to begin by thanking you for reevaluating the WIC Food package program and taking firm action to adjust the plan to correlate it with current American dietary guidelines and infant feeding practices. This is an enormous step in the right direction for WIC or any other food assistance service. America's current food assistance programs undoubtedly lack attention in nutritious alternatives for its candidates, which is not sensible considering that healthy choices will directly affect medical and prescription costs that the government will have to "fork-up" later on down the road. I work at a large, major chain pharmacy near the Texas Medical Center in Houston Texas, and I see plenty of prescriptions billed to Medicare and Medicaid on a daily basis. Annually in America, billions of tax dollars are being spent on assisting patients who live with diseases that could have been easily prevented by providing healthy food choices in the first place. The WIC and the food stamp programs need to step up and begin to change the way they assist these less fortunate folks, and in doing so, we will slowly begin to solve this nation's epidemic problem of obesity and cardiovascular disease. Let's take corrective action now, before it's too late! The US congress is already attempting to make cuts in the federal food stamp programs to accommodate the deficit. Medicare and Medicaid has created

http://www.boston.com/yourlife/health/aging/articles/2005/11/01/senate_bill_includes_cuts_in_medicare_medicaid/

In addition to providing assistance for fruits and vegetables, I also strongly support amending other proposals that would be beneficial to the WIC participants. Such as reducing assistance for milk, cheese, and juices that are high in fat and carbohydrates, and offer assistance on healthier alternatives. Ideas include (from calwic.org):

- a. The proposal will provide stronger incentives for continued breastfeeding by providing less formula to partially breastfed infants and providing additional quantities/types of food for breastfeeding mothers. To further enhance the food package for fully breastfeeding women, I urge USDA to raise the cash-value vouchers for fruits and vegetables to the original IOM-recommended amount of \$10 per month.

- a. The proposal to reduce juice and replace it with infant food at 6 months will support recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics for introducing infants to fruits and vegetables at the appropriate age.

- a. The provision of whole grain and soy options will allow WIC to better serve extremely diverse young families.

a. The inclusion of lower-fat milk and less cheese and eggs supports adequate calcium intake, while at the same time lowering saturating fats and cholesterol in accordance with current dietary guidance

By establishing and managing a food assistance program that meets dietary guidelines for people who are less fortunate and who don't have the resources or options to live healthier lifestyles, we are beginning to take steps in solving the bigger issues that trouble our economy today, such as obesity and cardiovascular disease. Offering a healthier environment for the 8.2 million women, infants, and children who use these services will pay back tenfold. Thank you for your time.

Tyson Bower, cPhT
NUTR Student @
The University of Houston
Student Nutrition Association President 06-07
UH CA Box 531
4800 Calhoun
Houston, Tx 77204
tyson57@gmail.com

GP-3283

From. wildlifeart@mail yellowstone.net
Sent Monday, October 16, 2006 11:33 PM
To. WICHQ-SFPD
Cc eli@gotmercury.org
Subject. Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

RE: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I support the following changes in the WIC Package VII program:

1. Please remove high-mercury canned tuna, both "white" or albacore tuna and "light tuna."
2. Please replace canned tuna with low-mercury canned fish, such as wild salmon, sardines, anchovies, and mackerel.
3. Please require states to offer alternatives to canned tuna and not permit states to opt out.
- 4 Please require that all mothers receive accurate information about mercury and seafood based on the EPA and FDA advisories for women of childbearing age and children.

Thank you for considering my comments Courtney Couch PO Box 1023 (910 5th St)
Kamiah, ID 83536 wildlifeart@mail.yellowstone.net

GP-3284

From Jamie and Paul Failla [failla525@msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2006 4:41 PM

To WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Any changes to the WIC Food Packages Rule that includes more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy alternatives is a welcome change.

Also, and just as important, are changes that encourage breastfeeding initiation and continuation. Changes that give more and more benefits to breastfeeding families with every extra month they breastfeed are much needed.

Thank you

Jamie Failla

From supriya pasupulati [supriyapasupulati@hotmail.com]
Sent Wednesday, October 18, 2006 11:51 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Dietetic Intern

Comments On New WIC Regulations

- Deleting juice from the infant and children's food list reduces the risk of dental caries and childhood obesity, and increases the milk consumption
- Changing to low fat milk for older children will help decrease calorie intake. It might eventually decrease childhood obesity.
- Allowing eligible mothers and children in low income populations with limited resources for purchasing to receive more fresh fruit, vegetables and whole grain products is a subtle way to encourage consumers to eat better and healthier foods
- The revised WIC food packages follow 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and current infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- The farmers market program is great as WIC participants have direct access to the freshest, produce, throughout the growing season.
- Elimination of formula in the baby's first month increases the duration of breastfeeding, which is good. However if problems occur during the first days of breastfeeding, mothers may have to use formula. They may not be able to breastfeed. This would mean that they would have to buy formula, which they might not be able to afford
- Introduction of soy products like tofu and any calcium-fortified soymilk would provide healthy calcium and protein alternatives for moms, babies and children with or without lactose intolerance or milk protein allergies
- Cutting eggs from 1½ dozen to 1 dozen may not be a good idea as eggs are a good source of quality protein, vitamins B6, B12, choline and folate, and iron
- The revised food packages will help our nation's families to establish healthy eating habits, which are keys to preventing obesity, diabetes and heart disease

Supriya Pasupulati · Graduate Public Health Nutrition student from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

0/24/06 email from Judy Fessenden [judyfessenden@gmail.com]

To: Ms. Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
USDA Food and Nutrition Services
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

E-mail: wichq-sfpd@fns.usda.gov

Re. Docket ID # 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I am pleased to support the proposed changes in the WIC Food Packages that are consistent with the 2005 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and align with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations

- add fruits and vegetables, and whole grain products to the food packages for the first time,
- reduce the amount of certain foods (milk, cheese, eggs, and juice) in order to align with the *Guidelines*,
- provide stronger incentives for continued breastfeeding by providing less formula to partially breastfed infants and providing additional quantities/types of food for breastfeeding mothers,
- replace juice for infants with infant food fruits and vegetables starting at six months, and
- provide lower fat milk for children over 2 years and adults.

These changes, when implemented, will strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families

Sincerely, Judith N. Fessenden

email 10/27/06 from Chris Deveny [cdeveny@onewest.net]

626 2nd Street
Helena, MT 59601

October 17, 2006

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service
USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

RE "Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels

I am vice-chair of the Board of Health for Lewis and Clark County in Montana, and have over 25 years of experience working in various local and state level public health programs. I'm writing to let you know of my strong support of, and suggested amendment to, the USDA issued proposed rule governing the WIC Food Packages (published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2006).

The proposed rule changes will go a long way toward improving the nutritional well being of WIC clients, who make up a large percentage of our infant, toddler, and pre-school population. The changes are overdue, and I applaud the efforts of your agency to make them.

I do suggest one significant amendment to the Proposed Package **Replace jarred infant food with fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables.** This amendment will not only help the WIC Program meet its goal of being cost neutral (jarred foods are exorbitantly priced), but will also help reduce the promotion and consumption of associated "Graduate" toddler foods. Graduate toddler foods (the next step up from jarred foods) are not desirable products for WIC clients either nutritionally nor from an economic standpoint.

I urge adoption of the rule change with the suggested amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ms. Christine Deveny

email 10-27-06 from Katherine Loukianoff [katiloukianoff@yahoo.com]

October 26, 2006

Ms. Patricia N. Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

**RE: Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77.**

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As a concerned nutrition student of this community I am pleased to support the USDA's proposed changes to revise the WIC Food Packages. The proposed changes are extremely important for WIC, and are consistent with the *2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and are more consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations. The WIC Food Packages have not been revised since 1980, so the current WIC Food Packages do not reflect current nutrition science and dietary recommendations. I believe that these changes will help improve the nutrition and health status for all of the WIC program participants.

1. Closer to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The current WIC Food Packages are outdated, therefore, the food packages that the WIC participants have been receiving are not consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. When the changes have been implemented, the participants of WIC will be able to purchase fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and participants' diets will have a greater variety and wider food choices. The new revised WIC Food Packages will include the new foods necessary to meet dietary standards, but it will not exceed the WIC budget because it will also reduce the amount of WIC foods that are not needed in the quantity which is currently in the Food Packages.

2. Improve Nutrient Intakes to Address Emerging Public-Health Related Issues. Currently there is a prevalence of inadequate or excessive nutrient intake. By modifying the foods offered to the WIC participants there would be a great improvement of these nutrient intakes. The amount of iron, fiber, and vitamin E will all be increased, while providing less saturated fat, cholesterol, total fat and sodium. The increased amount of fruits, vegetables and whole grains will help contribute to a healthy weight. The increased prevalence of overweight and obese adults, adolescents, and even young children in this country has been linked to hyperinsulinemia, glucose intolerance, type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, and early increased risk for chronic diseases. The use of lower-fat milk and less cheese and eggs supports adequate calcium intake, while at the same time lowering saturating fats and cholesterol in accordance with current dietary guidance. The proposed

vouchers to increase these fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are an excellent idea, and should be implemented immediately

3. Greater Consistency to Recommendations for Infant and Children. I support the proposal to reduce the maximal amount of infant formula for partially breastfeeding women. This will encourage breastfeeding, while providing nutritional needs. I also support the reduction of the maximal amount of infant formula for fully formula fed infants from 6-11 9 months because complementary foods, such as infant foods, will be provided, so the need for formula will decrease. The new WIC Food Packages would also eliminate juices for infants, and decrease the amount for children ages 1-5. Fruit juices have no nutritional benefit over whole fruit, therefore, the new food packages will meet the recommendations for the American Academy of Pediatrics for introducing infants to fruits and vegetables at the appropriate age. These changes will allow the children to receive more nutrient dense foods at the same or slightly lower caloric intake.

4. Reinforce Nutrition Educations Provided to Participants. All of the proposed changes will strongly reinforce WIC nutrition education messages. These changes will also provide appeal to a diverse population due to the culturally appropriate food packages that will be available.

I look forward to the USDA and the WIC program being able to implement these necessary food package improvements. The revised changes will allow an even greater improvement in nutritional status of low-income families, and allow them to have more choices. It will also help address the obesity epidemic that our country is facing. Women and children throughout California will benefit greatly from this provision.

Sincerely,

Katherine Loukianoff
Student and Concerned Citizen

From: Annie Siu-Norman [Anniesiunorman@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2006 2:33 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: ?Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,?

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I am writing to thank USDA/FNS for its efforts in bringing the WIC food packages in alignment with the 2005 US Dietary Guidelines and other national nutrition guidance, including those of the American Academy of Pediatrics

The proposed changes add fruits and vegetables, whole grain cereals and other whole grains, soy milk, tofu and canned beans (with one exception -see below) which provide a greater variety of high nutrient food choices to the WIC participants. Reduction in the amount of juice, milk and eggs are consistent with dietary guidelines & AAP recommendations. USDA should allow state the option to tailor food packages as needed based on the participant's needs assessment per VENA initiative

In addition, I urge USDA to consider changes to the proposed rule for the following: a) follow FDA standards for protein and potassium in fortified soy beverages; b) waive medical documentation requirements for children to receive soy beverages; c) allow up to \$10 cash-value vouchers to fully BF moms and prenatals (to stay cost neutral, either reduce juice amount or woman & child packages or reduce cash-value vouchers for postpartum non-BF moms and children to \$6); d) allow states option to develop guidance to provide up to 1 can of powder formula for infants in the first month; e) allow states option to specify vendor minimum stocking requirements for fruits & vegs; (f) allow only states that also administer the FMNP the option to contract with farmers as WIC vendors to redeem fresh fruits/vegs (the vendor selection regulations need to be changed); g) allow states the option to categorically tailor or propose food substitutions; & h) allow states a flexible timeframe of up to 2 years from the date of publication of the final rule to fully implement the new food packages

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Annie Siu-Norman
2818 Dwayne Drive

Jefferson City, MO 65109

10-31-06 email from jcdawson@mail.wsu.edu

10-31-06

Director Patricia N Daniels
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services, USDA
3101 Parke Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

RE: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Revisions in the WIC Food Packages, Proposed Rule, published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2006 [Docket No. 0584-AD77]

Dear Director Daniels,

My name is Julie Dawson, and I am a graduate student in Crop Science at Washington State University. I am writing to express my strong support for your proposed changes to the WIC program to allow participants to purchase more fresh produce and especially to allow the use of WIC vouchers at farmers' markets. While I was an undergraduate at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, I participated in an extension program running a farmers' market in a low-income housing development. Most of our customers used the WIC coupons from the farmers' market nutrition program. We had a large group of kids from the housing development who liked to hang out by the market stands, and we would encourage them to sample the produce. One kid could not believe that peas actually grew in a pod and tasted good – he had never had fresh peas before! Even if parents truly want to get the healthiest food for their kids, fresh produce is expensive, and may be out of the financial reach of many WIC clients. The farmers' market coupons are a way to address this problem. Most of the farmers who participated in our program offered a substantial discount, so the WIC coupons were able to stretch even further. Even so, each mother was limited to a ridiculously small number of coupons each year. Expanding the program would be extremely beneficial to both the farmers and the families who are able to afford more fresh foods. Increasing the funding for fresh produce to \$6-8 per month is an improvement, but does not go nearly far enough. I spend about \$30 each week at the farmers' market for produce, just to feed myself. I get almost all my groceries for the week at the farmers' market in season, and low-income families should have the same opportunity.

Although most farmers would like to help low-income customers, the logistics of WIC farmers' market coupons has been difficult for some. We were able to help the farmers at our market because the ones that weren't set up to take WIC coupons could coordinate with the farmers who were. This is not a long-term solution, however, and it is very important that the system be made easier for farmers' and markets. The proposed new, expanded use of the WIC "cash-value food instrument" should be coordinated with the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), including automatically allowing WIC FMNP-qualified markets and farmers to redeem the new WIC cash-value food instrument.

I would also like to encourage you to incorporate the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for the amount of fruits and vegetables that are needed to make the children's food package nutritionally adequate. Much of the recent nutritional research I have read stresses the importance of fruits and vegetables in providing not only vitamins and minerals, but also antioxidants and other health-promoting compounds that cannot be obtained through simply enriching processed foods. Insisting on 'cost neutrality' is a false economy as it shortchanges future generations. Children who have access to a well-balanced, minimally processed diet seem to perform better in school, have better immune systems and a better chance at life. This is especially important for children growing up in socially disadvantaged situations.

I am currently helping to coordinate some plots in the local community gardens where we grow vegetables for the food bank. Everything we deliver is gone within a few hours because the demand is so high. We do as much as we can, but it is impossible to meet the needs of all the families who rely on the food bank. Expanding the WIC program would help mothers buy some of their produce at the farmers' market or roadside stands, supporting the local economy and helping the food bank and gardens to serve more people. Thank you for helping to make good nutrition accessible to everyone.

Sincerely,

Julie Dawson
1055 NE Indiana St Apt C
Pullman, WA, 99163



College of Health Professions

GP-3297

November 3, 2006

Patricia Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service – USDA
3101 Park Center Drive – Room 528
Alexandria VA 22302

RE: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77 WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels

As dietetic interns we are a group of aspiring registered dietitians who share a common interest in promoting nutrition in the United States. Of particular interest to our internship class is the WIC program. Marshall University is located in West Virginia where the current WIC participation level is over 49,300. Due to our respect for the importance of the WIC program in our state we have carefully analyzed the proposed revisions and answered your call for suggestions where we felt our comments were both applicable and useful.

Yogurt is not included as a dairy alternative in the current package as recommended by the Institute of Medicine.

Yogurt is still not included in any of the food packages as a milk alternative. While women may choose calcium-set tofu and soy milk, yogurt is a naturally lactose-free dairy product that could be substituted at equal or reduced costs of the other alternatives. Providing a yogurt-inclusive package would better serve minority populations who have very high rates of lactose maldigestion. Soy milk and tofu are not as culturally widespread as yogurt and therefore not likely to be chosen by the majority WIC population.

We are concerned with the welfare of low-income persons who may have limited transportation, storage, and cooking facilities:

While many revisions were improved to include dry shelf storage food items, there are still barriers to some populations receiving the full benefits of these packages. Those living in homeless shelters or other temporary housing units lack storage and cooking resources. We propose that single serving items currently in the retail market be included in the list of acceptable foods for WIC recipients. A special package that is more tailored



College of Health Professions

to the needs of the transient or semi-transient WIC population would ensure these participants full nutritional benefits from their food package.



College of Health Professions

We support accommodations be made for cultural food preferences.

Whole grain rice, bulgur wheat, kasha, whole wheat tortillas, whole wheat pastas and dried oats would allow more cultural preferences while exposing other WIC participants to whole grain foods besides "whole wheat bread."

We support the nutrient density aims of proposed packages as evidenced by fresh produce cash vouchers and whole grain products.

The inclusions of foods that are naturally higher in vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals and flavenoids, and lower in calories have resulted in better nutrient density of food packages. Whole foods are also lower in total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and sodium. As evidence for the importance of whole grains and dietary fiber continue to mount we are pleased that WIC is making whole grain specifications on food packages.

Overall we believe the improvements in the WIC food packages are a step in the right direction towards a healthier America. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Marshall University Dietetic Interns

Marshall University Dietetic Interns



College of Health Professions

GP-3298

November 3, 2006

Patricia Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service – USDA
3101 Park Center Drive – Room 528
Alexandria VA 22302

RE Docket ID Number 0584-AD77 WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels

At first glance the proposed changes on food packages seem to promote full breastfeeding. While ideally the proposed changes would encourage more participation, we believe they will only make breastfeeding more difficult.

Given only two options, women may feel they have to choose for themselves or for their child. Breastfeeding mothers receive a full food package whereas mothers of formula fed infants receive no food package six months post partum.

Mothers who want to breastfeed in the first month, but are unsure about their success, may feel compelled to claim their infant as “fully formula feeding” so that their baby’s needs are met in case of unforeseen breastfeeding difficulties. This likely scenario would place the mother at nutritional risk and unintentionally promote the use of formula.

Many WIC mothers have jobs, classes or other commitments that do not make fulltime breastfeeding possible. The “all or nothing” effect of this proposal undermines research that shows breast milk to be beneficial in whatever amounts an infant receives.

The Marshall University Dietetic Internship class appreciates the opportunity to voice concerns over proposed WIC food packages and we look forward to results from pilot breastfeeding studies. We thank you for your consideration of our proposals.

Sincerely,

Marshall University Dietetic Interns

One John Marshall Drive • Huntington, West Virginia 25755 • Tel 304/696-6750 • Fax 304/696-6739

www.marshall.edu/cohp



College of Health Professions

Marshall University Dietetic Interns

GP-3301

email 11-04-06 from eslingers [eslingers@cox.net]

Docket ID Number 0584-AD77: SUPPORT

Dear friends at the U.S Department of Agriculture.

I am writing this letter as a result of my recent experience of serving at WIC and having been informed of the current changes to the food program being discussed. I would like to personally forward my opinion. I am a senior enrolled at San Diego State University, majoring in Foods & Nutrition. Throughout this semester I have had the privilege of volunteering at the SDSU WIC organization in the city of El Cajon, California and the Chula Vista, California locations. This opportunity has allowed me to witness the visible and invisible life changing effects and benefits that are eligible for all WIC participants. In my experience, I observed friendships formed, trust built and a genuine interest to partake in the health education offered from almost every participant as well as the more tangible benefit of applying healthy eating to their lifestyle.

The WIC organization has always done a tremendous job of recognizing demographically and scientifically what the health needs of the low income population are. It is no secret that for the last 30 years WIC has offered and supplied nutrition and health care options to millions of low income woman with various needs. However, with time comes change. Therefore, in 2003 when there was an inspection of the WIC program it eventually provoked the proposal of the WIC Food Program Time for Change implementation. This creative planning targets reliance on the 2005 Food Guide Pyramid and is a crucial measure that must be taken in all WIC branches. Such a proposal will provide confirmation for all education that has been or is currently being taught through WIC. Currently it presents a problem when fruits and vegetables are educated as a necessary part of a healthy diet with no means to supply for the need. The very reputation of WIC is providing healthy options for low income families. Therefore without the option of fruit or vegetables offered through WIC a participant may become disillusioned regarding the importance.

Another portion of the proposed change to the WIC program is the availability to offer more culturally acceptable foods. Having volunteered over the course of a couple months I believe this is a vital modification. In the US, food, culture and cost are a large part of an individuals reasoning for selection. Understanding the importance of culture on food and providing options to accommodate such preferences will not only motivate participants to incorporate variety in their diet, but also increase and allow for adequate calorie intake and other nutrients important to ones diet.

WIC consistently provides a positive influence to local participants through education, food packages, as well as multiple links to other interrelated services one might need. Such services may benefit ones current situation whether pregnant or post-partum, in addition to enabling parents to pursue a better life style for their family. It is my opinion that the passing of the proposal to add fruits, vegetables, grains using more culturally diverse options will better WIC and maintain its standard for excellence.

Sincerely,
Nitsa Eslinger
SDSU Student

GP-3302

11-05-06 email from Rinki Desai [rinki589@hotmail.com]

November 5, 2006

Ms. Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service
U S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Ms. Daniels,


I encourage everyone to accept the changes in the WIC food packages. There are few changes to improve the health of 8 million women, infants, and children. The changes are made in order to be consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the current infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. On behalf of myself, I would like to represent the WIC agency. I am a student who is planning to be part of the WIC agency. It benefits one out of two infants born in the USA. In April 2005, the Institute of Medicine issued a report entitled WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change. They posted many nutritional recommendations regarding the pregnant women and children. I would like to talk about few changes in the WIC food packages.

The role of the new WIC food packages is to reduce the saturated fat and cholesterol of the mothers and children.

1. Fruit and Vegetables. The American Academy of Pediatrics said that juice does not provide as much nutritional benefit as the whole fruit. Whole fruit is very healthy and has no sugar added to it. It has all natural nutrients.

2. Milk and Eggs. The WIC packages proposed that they will give pregnant women and infants appropriate amounts of nutrients closer to the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The WIC food package will give no more than 2% fat milk to women and children and give fat free cheese so they can be healthy. The mothers and children will receive ½ to one dozen eggs less than non-pregnant women so they have less cholesterol than non-pregnant women. The provision of whole grain and soy options will allow WIC to better serve extremely diverse young families.

These changes will improve the nutrition education among all women and will emphasize more on nutrition among all individuals. I look forward for the implementation of their proposal as soon as possible and change the mortality and rates in this country. Many of the high cholesterol foods cause diabetes and heart disease. If we prevent the child and the mother early at birth from a disease, then this country will be healthier. This program will also help the low-income families in eating right. Moreover, the new WIC food packages will improve the health of pregnant women, infants, and children.



Sincerely, Rinkı Desai

November 4, 2006

Ms Patricia N Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

**RE: Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77**

Dear Ms Daniels,

I, Yashmi Mistry, Dietetic Intern, support the long awaited reform to change the current WIC food packages to the newer healthier and well-balanced food package published in the Federal Registrar on August 7, 2006 I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation

This change is beneficial for WIC participants for a number of reasons First, the new package offers a wider variety of foods from all food groups promoting a well-balanced diet The variety of foods available is more culturally acceptable – foods such as tofu, soymilk, bread, baby food and tortillas help meet the needs of a broader and changing ethnic and culturally diverse group of participants served at WIC

The addition of fruits and vegetables promote the consumption of healthier alternatives to juice with less sugar, more fiber and antioxidants and will help children meet the daily requirement of five servings of fruits and vegetables Furthermore, the introduction of fruits and vegetables as baby food instead of juice is healthier for infants to start off eating on the right foot and supports the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations I urge the USDA to raise the cash allowance to \$10 per month for each participant of WIC per the IOM recommendation to help WIC participants meet the daily requirement of essential vitamins and minerals

The introduction of soymilk and tofu offer an option rich in calcium, vitamin D and protein necessary for growth for participants with the inability to adequately digest cow's milk products and those with cultural preferences for soy products To ensure easy accessibility and convenience I urge you not to burden these participants to have to obtain unnecessary medical documentation

Adding whole grain breads and tortillas are in concordance with the IOM recommendations and the *2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* I also urge the committee to rule in favor for the provision of 'wheat-free' cereals and breads with medical documentation for patients with medical conditions who cannot digest these foods

With great enthusiasm I am in favor for more incentives and additional food for breastfeeding mothers to encourage and nutritionally support the breastfeeding mother and infant

With emerging health concerns, like that of obesity and heart disease, the new WIC food package supports prevention of these diseases. It also improves community food security, and makes healthier food choices easier for the millions of children and families that WIC serves. With all taken into account, this regulatory proposal will ultimately have a positive impact on the health of women, infants and children in the United States. I hope that these changes are made in a timely manner. Thank you again, for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation.

Sincerely,

Yashmi Mistry BS
Former WIC Nutrition Assistant for Agency 124 (Santa Clara County)
Dietetic Intern, Stanford Hospital and Clinics
Graduate Student, San Jose State University

GP-3304

email to wichq-sfpd 11-06-06 from aduran8196@aim.com

10/25/2006

Ms. Patricia N. Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

**RE: Comments on WIC Food Packages Proposed Rule,
Docket ID Number 0584-AD77.**

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the USDA's proposed regulations that substantially revise the WIC Food Packages. On behalf of myself, Angela Duran, an employee of Pacific Gateway Group, which provides consulting services for the State and California and San Diego County, I am pleased to support these long-awaited reforms. I commend the Department for proposing important changes to WIC that are consistent with the *2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and align with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations. I feel that, when implemented, these changes will greatly strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families not only in San Diego, but for all US cities

The WIC Community has waited a long time for these nutritional revisions. State WIC agencies and local providers are eager to get started on the planning and implementation issues involved with so many major changes to WIC foods. I urge USDA to conduct its analysis of the comments on the Proposed Rule quickly and efficiently, and publish a Final Rule by mid-2007 at the very latest. I believe WIC and WIC participants have waited too long for these changes to be made and should not wait any longer. The earlier these changes can be made the more swiftly and rapidly the health status of millions of families will change as well.

I feel these changes will make it easier for WIC to reinforce nutrition education messages to families and the communities. These changes will follow more closely with the dietary guidelines. I strongly support providing 8.2 million WIC mothers and young children with cash-value vouchers to purchase fruits and vegetables, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Report: "WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change." While the IOM recommended \$10/ and \$8/month vouchers, the proposed rule reduced this amount to \$8/ and \$6/month in order to achieve overall cost neutrality. I hope the USDA will work with Congress to secure increased federal funding in future years to bring the

cash value of these fruit and vegetable vouchers up to the IOM-recommended levels, and to keep pace with inflation. This will better assist WIC families to purchase and consume fruits or vegetables each day. However, the proposed voucher levels are an excellent start and should be immediately implemented.

I support the proposals to reduce the amount of certain foods such as the milk, cheese, eggs, and juice, in order to better make parallel WIC with current Dietary Guidelines and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The proposal will provide stronger incentives for continued breastfeeding by providing less formula to partially breastfed infants and providing additional quantities/types of food for breastfeeding mothers. To further enhance the food package for fully breastfeeding women, I support the recommendation for the USDA to raise the cash-value vouchers for fruits and vegetables to the original IOM-recommended amount of \$10 per month. With the addition of fruits and vegetables to the package, WIC participants will be able to take what is instructed to them in classes and counseling and put it to use without hesitation. WIC recommends and suggests to WIC participants to add fruits and vegetables to their diet or to increase consumption, and now they will be able to do so without the worry of money or depleted funds.

The proposal to reduce juice and replace it with infant food at 6 months will support recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics for introducing infants to fruits and vegetables at the appropriate age. The provision of whole grain and soy options will allow WIC to better serve California's extremely diverse young families. The inclusion of lower-fat milk and less cheese and eggs supports adequate calcium intake, while at the same time lowering saturating fats and cholesterol in accordance with current dietary guidance.

All of these proposed changes will strongly reinforce WIC nutrition education messages, as well as address the cultural food preferences among California's diverse population. These changes will be a major policy lever to improve community food security, address the obesity epidemic, and help low-income families make healthier food choices. Taken together, this regulatory proposal will ultimately have a positive impact on the health of women, infants and children in California.

Sincerely,

Angela Duran
Researcher
Pacific Gateway Group
5703 Oberlin Dr
San Diego, CA 92121
(858)752-6145

GP-4185

From: Sue Stuever Battel [battel@charter net]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 10:29 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: =?ANSI_X3.4-1968?Q?=3FDocket_ID_Number_0584-AD7?=
=?ANSI_X3 4-1968?Q?7,_WIC_Food_Packages_Rule,=3F?=?

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms. Daniels.

Thank you for considering updates to the WIC food packages. I lead a breastfeeding support group in my local community, made up of many mothers who use supplemental food services through WIC. These changes are necessary to further support these breastfeeding mothers and their babies. As you know, when formula is provided to breastfeeding mothers, it only serves to undermine the breastfeeding relationship. I see firsthand that having a bottle of formula nearby often causes breastfeeding to fail, making the baby lose out on the many benefits of breastfeeding. Thanks for considering these changes.

Sue Stuever Battel
418 W. Upton Ave.
Reed City, MI 49677

GP-4186

From: Love Albrecht Howard [alovea@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 8:37 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: =?ANSI_X3.4-1968?Q?=3FDocket_ID_Number_0584-AD7?=
=?ANSI_X3.4-1968?Q?7,_WIC_Food_Packages_Rule,=3F?=?

Patricia N Daniels
Director, USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms Daniels

This rule is CRITICAL to help assure the health of the future Please validate the rule as soon as possible!

THANK YOU!

Love Albrecht Howard
249 Cushing Street
Hingham, MA 02043

GP-4187

From: Andrea Kelly [AndreaBKelly@comcast.net]
Sent Thursday, October 12, 2006 12 14 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: =?ANSI_X3 4-1968?Q?=3FDocket_ID_Number_0584-AD7?=
=?ANSI_X3.4-1968?Q?7,_WIC_Food_Packages_Rule,=3F?=?

Patricia N Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms. Daniels.

I am writing to encourage your continued support of the improvement of WIC food packages. The proposed changes would provide more nutritious, healthier foods to recipients. They also encourage breastfeeding, which is healthier for the mother and the baby in addition to being less costly.

I support the NWA positions on the USDA proposal to revise the WIC food package and urge USDA to finalize the rule with revisions as suggested by NWA as soon as possible.

Andrea Kelly
19300 Richwood Court
Brookeville, MD 20833-

GP-4189

From S Hy [pbandjs@sg23.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2006 10 42 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: =?ANSI_X3.4-1968?Q?=3FDocket_ID_Number_0584-AD7?=
=?ANSI_X3.4-1968?Q?7,_WIC_Food_Packages_Rule,=3F?=?

This e-mail is to let you know that I'm delighted with the proposed changes for the WIC program. This way of encouraging women to breastfeed their babies is a great move. More women breastfeeding will save much, much money in health care costs, and enable more families to benefit from the growing list of benefits to mother and baby.

S. Hy
Breastfeeding Counselor

S Hy
114 Robie Street
Bath, NY 14810

GP-4190

From Krissi/Vegan Action [krissi@vegan.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2006 10:14 PM
To WICHQ-WEB
Subject: New proposal

Great news I'm in support of the proposal to include healthier foods in the WIC program especially the soy alternatives.

Kristine Vandenberg
3218 Douglasdale Road
Richmond, VA 23221

GP-4192

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2006 11:39 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Katherine Quinn
EMAIL: quinnkyq@yahoo.com
CITY: Middlebury
STATE: Vermont
ORGANIZATION:
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory:
Date: October 17, 2006
Time: 11:38:45 AM

COMMENTS:

For the most part, these look great. Adding fruits, veggies, bread, and soy products is excellent. We always wished that there had been dairy alternatives for our son who was lactose intolerant. Also, reducing juice is excellent. We've always received far more than we need. My only concern is the reduction of formula for fully formula fed infants 6-11 months. As the mother of twins who breastfed for a month, I still ended up buying formula most months. This is a very expensive item, and absolutely necessary for infants who are not breast fed. For women who cannot or chose not to breastfeed, this will be a financial strain. Otherwise, the changes look very positive.
Thank you for reading my comments,

Katherine Quinn

GP-4193

From: Jeanette Valdez [jeanettevaldez@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2006 10:45 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: ?Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,?

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms. Daniels,

My name is Jeanette Valdez, and I am a dietetic intern with the Sodexo Distance Education Dietetic Internship. As an advocate for proper nutrition, I am ecstatic to hear that the USDA/FNS has proposed new WIC food packages that will not only provide optimal nutritional health for WIC recipients, but it will validate the nutrition education given to them by dietetic professionals at the WIC sites.

For 32 years, many low-income mothers and their children who are less than five years of age have benefited from the food supplements, nutritional education, and additional support provided by WIC. Today, over eight million women, infants, and children are receiving WIC assistance.

WIC recipients will gain much more from the proposed WIC food packages since they are consistent with the 2005 US Dietary Guidelines for Americans as well as the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics for infant feeding.

In addition to items previously offered, this proposal will allow families to purchase a variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as whole grain, soy, and other products pertinent to participants of diverse cultures. Baby foods will also be available for infants in place of fruit juices until 11 months of age. Funds allocated to WIC recipients will be used more efficiently simply by giving them the ability to choose.

I strongly support the USDA's WIC Food Package Proposal Rule, and anticipate its confirmation.

Jeanette Valdez
2737 Council Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026

GP-4194

From: Eileen palmer [epalmer@critwomensunion.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2006 9:07 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

To Whom It May Concern.

I support WIC's proposed healthier allowances.

Thank you

Eileen Palmer
Woman to Woman Intern
The Crittenton Women's Union
Tel: (617) 536-5651 ext 126
Fax (617) 247-8826

GP-4195

From SONJA DILBECK [thedilbecks@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2006 3:17 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Thank you for including Soy Milk as an alternative. Please review the possibility of adding soy-cheese and soy-yogurt to the available products, for those with children who have allergies to milk based products.

Thank you,
Pearl City, HI

(Please do not include my name in any public viewing of the comments)

SONJA DILBECK
thedilbecks@earthlink.net
Another Day, Another Dollar, Another Smile

GP-4197

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Thursday, October 19, 2006 9:40 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME Rachel Bell
EMAIL: Rachel-Bell@ouhsc.edu
CITY: Norman
STATE: OK
ORGANIZATION: University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center--Nutritional
Sciences Coordinated Program
CATEGORY Other
OtherCategory Student of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health
Sciences Center
Date: October 19, 2006
Time: 09:39:36 PM

COMMENTS

I strongly support the proposed rules for WIC enrichment. Supporting breastfeeding mothers and emphasizing the overall balance of nutrition as represented by the Food Guide Pyramid is an excellent initiation to life-long health. It is my hope that by providing WIC families with a source of better nutrition and nutrition education, a foundation will be built for widespread nutrition awareness.

GP-4198

From Joanna bakken [kenjobakken@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2006 1:27 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Hello,

I have been a WIC mom on and off for the last 7 years. I am also involved in my community through various grass roots projects and organizations including the local breast feeding support center.

I think the changes to the WIC program are phenomenal!!! Thank you for including whole grains and reducing the amounts of milk and juice that are allotted

Joanna Bakken

[http //3367 daisybluenaturals com](http://3367daisybluenaturals.com)

GP-4199

From: Brenna Randolph [brenna@headstart.sfsu.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2006 12:21 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC changes

To Whom it May Concern,

I whole heartedly support your consideration of adding fruits, vegetables and whole grains to the WIC package. These changes will help women and their children establish better eating habits, something WIC is all about!

Keep up the good work!

Brenna

GP-4201

From Jeffrey, Linda [LJEFFREY@massbay.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2006 4.46 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Please add my vote in favor of this regulation. It is about time breastfeeding mothers and babies receive additional support from WIC.

Linda Jeffrey
29 Pond Street
Framingham, MA 01702

GP-4202

From: Philip Clausen [phalcon@iowatelecom.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2006 12:40 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Approve the proposed WIC package.

It is important to me that families with young children who live in poverty have access to nutritious foods. As a member of the farming community, we produce foods for the tables of the world. Families living in America need to have access to the wonderful bounty from the heartland of the country.

Please approve the proposed WIC food package. Thank you.

Sally Clausen
Roland Iowa

GP-4203

From Sherron Collins [sherronc@charterm1.net]

Sent Saturday, October 21, 2006 1:21 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rule

I support the changes in the WIC Food Package Rule which are aimed at supporting breastfeeding, including the removal of artificial milks for the first month, limitation of artificial milk availability, and additional adult foods for breastfeeding mothers for the duration of enrollment in the program. These changes are in agreement with the recent guidelines of the American Pediatric Association and other medical and nursing organizations. Breastfeeding is the best way of feeding young children.

Sherron Collins

P. O. Box 293

Spring Lake MI 49456

GP=4204

From: Charlotte Russell [EdenWayBirth@hotmail.com]
Sent Saturday, October 21, 2006 11 01 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject ?Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,?

Patricia N. Daniels
Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division Food and Nutrition Service USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

"Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Dear Ms Daniels:

As a midwife I see many pregnant women and new mothers who receive benefits from WIC. While all of them are grateful for the help that WIC gives their family in regard to eggs, cheese and milk, many feel guilty that they don't use all of the gallons of juice and pounds of dried beans they are given. The changes proposed to the WIC offerings not only make the offerings more nutritionally stable by providing WHOLE GRAINS and fresh fruits, they make the offerings more usable for mothers who are trying to feed their babies the best possible diet.

I support the NWA positions on the USDA proposal to revise the WIC food package and urge USDA to finalize the rule with revisions as suggested by NWA as soon as possible. Doing so will help all of the WIC recipients across the nation feed themselves and their children a more varied, whole and healthful diet

Charlotte Russell
729 Wichita St.
Shreveport, LA 71104

GP-4205

From: sheryl fletcher [sherfletcher@usadatanet net]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2006 11.44 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule,"

Well, first off, it took me a while to figure out how/where to respond online Perhaps it's me!

At any rate, I believe the proposed changes are great The cheese is great, as is the Farmer's Market coupon program. All of it is a big help, however, it is harder to utilize the milk before getting more. Other foods are easier to manage, and vegetables would always be welcome and used right up. Grains are easy to store/use also Bread - great!

Soy products make it all more interesting, and I think it is good to introduce new foods to people

Those are my comments. I thank those who work for making this program more appropriate

sheryl fletcher

GP-4206

From: ridge3295 [ridge3295@duo-county.com]

Sent Saturday, October 21, 2006 7:46 AM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

WIC has been around for a long time and I think it's a wonderful service

I think that WIC should be expanded, age wise as well as the changes you are considering offering. Kids don't stop growing at age 5, and there are so many children that fall 'in the cracks' of our system. Age 5 is when they start differentiating one food to another. If WIC foods were available, they would have healthier choices. It might make for a better life-long habit of choosing the right foods, i.e. Fruit or vegetables instead of less expensive high fat, high sugar foods or 'empty calories'

We all know eating right helps the entire body, physically and mentally. This change could bring healthier children and better grades in school.

I would suggest age 15 as the cut off age.

Thank you,

A citizen of
Cumberland County, KY

GP-4207

From: LFayman@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2006 4:56 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC Changes

Hello, and forgive me for cutting and pasting, but this letter reflects my feelings
Lana Fayman
San Diego CA
Citizen who sees people using WIC stamps or whatever while standing at the grocery
store line.

Dear Friends at US Department of Agriculture,

I am writing to tell you what I think about the proposal to change WIC
foods. Thank you for adding fruits and veggies to the WIC checks! I
believe it's important for families to enjoy choosing fresh, healthier
foods. What I like most about the proposed changes is the ability for
participants to be able to buy food at farmer's markets. Not only will
it help families receive a wider variety of fresh food choices, but it
will also help local economies and farmers -- a win-win situation. Thank
you for reading my comments.

GP-4208

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2006 4 34 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Mariah Gayler
EMAIL: action@consciouswork.com
CITY: San Diego
STATE: CA
ORGANIZATION:
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory
Date: October 22, 2006
Time: 04 33 56 PM

COMMENTS:

Dear Friends at US Department of Agriculture,

I am writing to tell you what I think about the proposal to change WIC foods. Thank you for adding fruits and veggies to the WIC checks! I believe it's important for families to enjoy choosing fresh, healthier foods. What I like most about the proposed changes is the ability for participants to be able to buy food at farmer's markets. Not only will it help families receive a wider variety of fresh food choices, but it will also help local economies and farmers -- a win-win situation. Thank you for reading my comments.

Sincerely,
Mariah Gayler
Concerned member of the public

GP-4209

From: Joann Lim [joannlim16@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2006 5:31 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Proposed changes to WIC food packages

Dear Friends at US Department of Agriculture, Thank you for adding fruits and veggies to the WIC checks! I believe it's important for families to enjoy choosing fresh, healthier foods. Fresh, healthier foods is an important key in preventative medicine and can lead to healthier, more productive lives. Also, the proposed changes is the ability for participants to be able to buy food at farmer's markets. Not only will it help families receive a wider variety of fresh food choices, but it will also help local economies and farmers -- a win-win situation. Thank you for reading my comments.

Sincerely, Joann Cofrancesco
Concerned member of the public

GP-4210

From: Mike [ammoniteshell@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2006 11:34 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule
Dear Friends at US Department of Agriculture,

I am writing to tell you what I think about the proposal to change WIC foods. Thank you for adding fruits and veggies to the WIC checks! I believe it's important for families to enjoy choosing fresh, healthier foods. What I like most about the proposed changes is the ability for participants to be able to buy food at farmer's markets. Not only will it help families receive a wider variety of fresh food choices, but it will also help local economies and farmers -- a win-win situation. Thank you for reading my comments.

Sincerely,

Michael Thayer
Concerned member of the public

GP-4211

From: DAVID HARRISON [DAVIDH@smoc.org]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2006 1:24 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Support WIC changes

I am writing to support the proposed WIC food package changes. These changes will make the foods we provide to WIC families healthier, more culturally sensitive and will help prevent overweight and obesity

Thank you for allowing me to comment

David Harrison, Director E&FA Division
SMOC Energy & Financial Assistance
300 Howard St, Framingham MA 01702
508-620-2689
FAX 508-620-2341

GP-4213

-----Original Message-----

From: ironik@tds.net [mailto:ironik@tds.net]

Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 12:50 PM

To: Daniels, Patricia

Subject: WIC food package

I think the revisions that you are proposing is a good idea. I wish that they were in effect now and had been in effect when I was pregnant and breast feeding,

Nikita Santor Lenahan

GP-4214

From: Shirley Scuderi [sheshe0013@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 12:57 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID 0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rule

The new proposal has some good points, such as the addition of fresh fruits and vegetables year round, alternatives to milk and cheese, canned beans and peas, new fish choices, whole grains, as well as the elimination of juice to infants and reduction of eggs, milk, and juice in standard packages. I do not agree with the addition of jars of baby food; I prefer teaching Moms to make their own baby food, using the fresh fruits and vegetables they will receive. This is much more economical and fresher. I would also like more incentives for breast feeding Moms, to keep them breastfeeding. Finally, we have some participants who should be drinking whole milk. I would like to see an option for whole milk if the participant needs the extra fat whole milk provides.

—

GP-4215

From: Rikki-Lee Carlson [Button25@Hotmail.com]

Sent Wednesday, October 25, 2006 6:14 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

To Whom It May Concern:

I think including fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and etc. into the monthly WIC Program is an excellent idea. These are all healthy foods that can be very expensive for the average family. Please take this into consideration.

Rikki-Lee Carlson

GP-4217

From: Sarah Chaikin [sarahC352@comcast net]
Sent Wednesday, October 25, 2006 12 54 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77

Atlantic County, NJ

I am very pleased to see that the WIC program is taking a serious and scientific approach to updating its food packages. While WIC is a supplemental source of food for low income families, for many it is the sole source of nutrition education. The foods represented in the WIC package reinforce the messages provided in the nutrition component. As such, I feel that the inclusion of fruits and vegetables will make an especially positive impact. I also believe that changes in the food packages are supportive of breastfeeding in the long-run. However, it has been my observation that many WIC enrolled mothers make decisions based on on short-term factors. I am concerned about the comparison of the breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding packages at the decision point of the newborn certification.

In Food Package I, the non-breastfed infant continues to receive 100% of the formula that they need (806 fluid ounces of formula per month) for the first month or more of life. This is in contradiction to the definition of WIC as a supplemental program. Viewing a non-breastfeeding infant's package along side the revised breastfeeding infant's package raises a concern. Many breastfeeding mothers are feeding their babies with some amount of formula by the time they present at WIC for the Newborn Certification. A mother who learns that WIC will provide 100% of needed formula if she enrolls the baby as non-breastfeeding, but will not provide any formula during the first month for the breastfed infant, may feel compelled to enroll her infant as non-breastfeeding. In this case she would also forgo lactation support and education.

I believe that WIC should give further consideration to revising its packages in the following three ways: 1) Do not provide formula to any infant during the first month. 2) Assure that WIC formula packages are always supplemental in nature. Provide no more than 520 oz. of formula per month to the 1 month old non-breastfeeding infant. 3) Provide manual breast pumps to all breastfeeding mothers who request them during the initial certification and to all exclusively breastfeeding mothers who request them thereafter. Doing so will further reinforce WIC's pro-breastfeeding message as well as reinforcing WIC's identity as a supplemental program for the non-breastfeeding mother and child.

GP-4218

From: Rhonda Dickson [rdickson@sechc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 1 14 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: FW: "0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rule"

From: Rhonda Dickson [mailto:rdickson@sechc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 1:05 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD@fns.usda.gov/wic
Subject: "0584-AD77, WIC Food Package Rule"

I support the proposed changes to the WIC food package. This change is well overdue. The dietary changes over the past 30 years has changed and it is time WIC catches up. The introduction of fruits and vegetables, whole grains and other calcium alternatives, such as soy milk and tofu is a good start for enhancing the food package. These changes will help improve the health, and let our diverse population know that we heard their request for alternatives for calcium. Long overdue.

Thanks

Rhonda

GP-4219

From: Kara Green [kara_rose_green@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 10:08 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC Food Package Rule

To: Ms. Patricia N. Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
USDA Food and Nutrition Services
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

Re: Docket ID # 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I am pleased to support the proposed changes in the WIC Food Packages that are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and align with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations:

- Ø add fruits and vegetables, and whole grain products to the food packages for the first time,
- Ø reduce the amount of certain foods (milk, cheese, eggs, and juice) in order to align with the Guidelines,
- Ø provide stronger incentives for continued breastfeeding by providing less formula to partially breastfed infants and providing additional quantities/types of food for breastfeeding mothers,
- Ø replace juice for infants with infant food fruits and vegetables starting at six months, and
- Ø provide lower fat milk for children over 2 years and adults.

These changes, when implemented, will strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families.

Sincerely,

Kara Green

GP-4222

From: Pat Richards [richardse@adelphia net]
Sent Wednesday, October 25, 2006 10 08 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID # 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

To: Ms. Patricia N. Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
USDA Food and Nutrition Services
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 528
Alexandria, VA 22302

E-mail. wichq-sfpd@fns.usda.gov

Re: Docket ID # 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I am pleased to support the proposed changes in the WIC Food Packages that are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and align with the American Academy of Pediatrics infant feeding recommendations:

- Ø add fruits and vegetables, and whole grain products to the food packages for the first time,
- Ø reduce the amount of certain foods (milk, cheese, eggs, and juice) in order to align with the Guidelines,
- Ø provide stronger incentives for continued breastfeeding by providing less formula to partially breastfed infants and providing additional quantities/types of food for breastfeeding mothers,
- Ø replace juice for infants with infant food fruits and vegetables starting at six months, and
- Ø provide lower fat milk for children over 2 years and adults.

These changes, when implemented, will strengthen the WIC program's ability to improve the nutrition and health status of millions of families

Sincerely,

Eileen Richards
richardse@adelphia net

GP-4223

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 2:49 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Jill Rubin
EMAIL: jillerubin@gmail.com
CITY: Peekskill
STATE: NY
ORGANIZATION:
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory: Concerned citizen
Date: October 25, 2006
Time: 02:49:29 PM

COMMENTS:

DearUSDA,

I am writing in support of the proposed rule changes to the WIC program. I think it is essential to allow recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables as well as access culturally desirable food. I am particularly pleased that the new rules include the ability to purchase foods directly at farmers' markets. This provision will allow low-income mothers and children to access some of the freshest and healthiest foods available because food at farmers' markets are often freshly harvested and include varieties that are better tasting and contain superior nutritional content based on varieties and because they were just harvested as compared with conventionally grown foods that are often transported over 1,000 miles and can sit on shelves for days. In addition, it is important that low-income mothers and children are able to participate in farmers' markets which are often dynamic community events.

That said, I wanted to emphasize that you should not harm the current WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Please do NOT reduce FMNP funding or establish protocols or procedures that would adversely affect its operation or effectiveness. Please encourage agencies and tribes to coordinate the implementation of the new rules with the current FMNP so that farmers and farmers' market managers are not required to do additional paperwork and certifications that are burdensome and will reduce that number of places where the WIC vouchers, either FMNP or as part of the new proposed rule, are accepted. In addition, it is critical that farmers' markets be allowed to participate as season vendors and be exempt from the "WIC-only" cost containment requirements, and not be required to carry a full range of food package products--this is only reasonable and common sense in order to involve farmers at farmers' markets. In addition, the regulations should allow the use of vouchers at other fresh food purchase points including farm stands, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares, and market basket.

programs. Also, there should be no limit on the type of fresh fruits and vegetables that may be purchased with the coupons. This allows for recipients to purchase foods they are familiar with, appreciate, and are culturally appropriate. It also allows for the wide variety of foods sold at farmers' markets to be included without having to create exhaustive lists.

Thank you for drafting such thoughtful proposed rule changes to the WIC program. Please ensure that access to fresh foods through farmers' markets remain simple both for WIC recipients and farmers and that as few restrictions as possible be put on the types of vegetables and fruits that are included.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Jill Rubin
Peekskill, NY

GP-4226

From Jeffrey Stewart [JeffreyAStewart@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 12:54 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to tell you what I think about the proposal to change the WIC food package. I think this is a great idea. I think this new food package would benefit the children because Fruits are Veggies are awful expensive and that is the reason why most people do not buy them. If WIC was to supply this food I believe it would promote healthier eating and give the children more of a choice on what to eat.

Thank your for considering my comments

Sincerely,
Diane Stewart
125 Kennedy Dr Apt 33
South Burlington, VT 05403

GP-4227

From hleeatkins@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 6:59 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: hleeatkins@aol.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Our future depends on the health of our population. If children are not fully nourished from infancy onward their brains are affected and therefore their mental acuity may not be good enough to make good decisions, for example for the care of the elderly as I will be in some years!! I really think these changes are important to train dietary habits and maybe even change some of the mothers'.

We are aware of the problem of obesity now and these changes also counter that. So, as a person of faith, I believe in the imperative to care for children, the hungry, and the poor. The WIC program makes a crucial difference in the lives of women and children across our country.

I understand that the WIC Food Package Proposed Rule offers the most significant and substantive changes to the food packages since the Program's inception in 1974.

I am writing to thank USDA/FNS for its efforts in bringing the WIC food packages in alignment with the 2005 US Dietary Guidelines and other national nutrition guidance, including those of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The proposed changes add fruits and vegetables, whole grain cereals and other whole grains, soy milk, tofu and canned beans, among others, which provide a greater variety of high nutrient food choices to the WIC participants. These additions will allow WIC to better meet the needs of its culturally diverse population.

Currently, WIC serves 8.2 million women, infants and children.

Approximately half of all infants and 25% of all children under 5 in the U.S. participate in WIC. The revised food packages will help our nation's families to establish healthy eating habits – a key to preventing obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

I support this proposed change and encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

Lucy Treadwell Atkins
12 School St
Hanover, NH 03755

GP-4228

From: Maria Avila [mavila@mspcc.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 3:11 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

I'll like to offer my support in the proposed changes for the food package by the WIC Nutrition Program. I support the efforts in pursuing a more healthy and well-balanced meal for women and children.

This email message and any files transmitted with it may contain personal health information, which may be legally privileged and is intended only for the person(s) to whom this email message is addressed. If you have received this email message in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone or email and destroy the original message without making a copy. Thank you.

GP-4230

From rhaymablake@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 11:15 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: rhaymablake@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As a person of faith, foster mother, and adoptive mom, I believe in caring for children, the hungry, and the poor. The WIC program has been of great value to me and the special needs foster children I have cared for in the past. I understand that the WIC Food Package Proposed Rule calls for the addition of fruits and vegetables and whole grain requirements that will help nourish the minds, bodies and spirits of those nutritionally at risk. It may also help "train" the palate of these moms and children to prefer more healthy foods on a long-term basis.

I thank USDA/FNS for its efforts. The proposed changes should provide a greater variety of high nutrient food choices to WIC participants and better meet the needs of this culturally diverse population.

I support this proposed change and encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

Rhayma Blake
823 Wiltshire Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78209

GP-4231

From wmchenault@pclnet.net
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 6:42 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Cc wmchenault@pclnet.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I had never heard of WIC until my son, then in the military, married and had a baby soon thereafter. WIC was invaluable to them and I am glad to see new rules based on our new understanding of nutrition. Keep up the good work Blessings!

Sincerely,

Julia S. Chenault
1701 iris st sw
decatur, AL 35601

GP-4232

From: chrystalmae01@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 5:33 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: chrystalmae01@yahoo.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I commend USDA for the release of the proposed rule making major changes to the WIC food packages. This proposed rule makes the WIC food packages consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and is a major step forward to improve the overall nutritional health and well-being of WIC mothers and children.

The proposed food packages will provide greater amounts of all of the priority nutrients currently identified as needed by the WIC population. They will supply a reliable and culturally acceptable source of supplemental nutritious foods as well as promote and support exclusive breastfeeding. Equally important, the proposals will provide WIC professionals with the necessary tools to reinforce the nutrition education messages and promote healthier food choices.

The long-term benefits of providing participants with fruits and vegetables, lower fat dairy products and whole grains, as well as additional incentives for fully breastfeeding women will greatly aid WIC in improving the life-long health of our most vulnerable women, infants and children.

I support this proposed change and encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

Chrystal M. Corliss
2620 Monarchy Lane
Greenwood, IN 46143

GP-4234

From grandola@pobox.com
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 9 05 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc. grandola@pobox.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

The WIC program is indeed a child-saving project with which I have had personal experience. In 1969 I was privileged to be the founding director of a comprehensive program for school age parents in Tulsa, OK. Academics, health care, counseling, parenting skills were the important components. I am glad to report that the program is still in operation though I retired many years ago. During my tenure the WIC program came into existence, providing desperately needed nutrition for mothers and infants. It is good to hear that you are updating the program to include the latest research findings. The need still exists.

Sincerely,

Lois H Gatchell
8222 S Yale Ave Apt. 321
Tulsa, OK 74137

GP-4235

From jbgay@comcast.net
Sent Thursday, October 26, 2006 11:08 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: jbgay@comcast.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As a person of faith, I believe the WIC program makes a crucial difference in the lives of women and children across our country.

It sounds like the WIC Food Package Proposed Rule offers significant improvements to the foods covered by the program.

Whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables, and rewards for breastfeeding offer much higher health than the current sugar-laden fruit juices, white flours, and formula-fed babies.

Please send my thanks to the USDA/FNS for aligning the WIC food to the 2005 US Dietary Guidelines following the advice of other national nutrition experts.

The proposed changes - fruits and vegetables; whole grains in flour, pasta, and cereals; soy milk, tofu, and canned beans, and others, will provide high nutrient food choices to WIC participants.

These new approved foods will allow WIC to make it easier to eat for good health.

Currently, WIC serves 8.2 million women, infants, and children.

Approximately half of all infants and 25% of all children under 5 in the U.S. participate in WIC. It is appalling to me that half of the US children are growing up in poverty.

In NH, there are 16,000 women and children in the program. They desperately need to learn to eat healthy foods - a key to preventing obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

Thank you so much for implementing these changes for the better.

Sincerely,

Betty Gay
10 Woodmeadow
Salem, NH 03079

GP-4238

From: CATMIA48@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 7:07 PM

To: WICHQ-SFPD

Subject: Docket ID# 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

I would Just Like to send a letter of support that I am in favor of the change in the WIC food package. It is wonderful to be able to have these programs for the children to know they are getting a great nutritional start in life. After all we all should have a great start in life a healthy start. I can only hope that more people like myself will put in a word of support, so that we will be able to get more nutrition added to the current package. Good luck Rachel

GP-4239

From: bill@iplawrambo.com
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 5:07 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: bill@iplawrambo.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As you may already know, mothers are at risk of having their infants removed from the home if the infant is diagnosed with failure to thrive. This diagnosis rests in large part upon the inability of the infant to gain weight in a normal fashion. By providing proper nutrition through the help of WIC, more mothers will be able to keep their infants from being taken away to foster care. I commend USDA for the release of the proposed rule making major changes to the WIC food packages. This proposed rule makes the WIC food packages consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and is a major step forward to improve the overall nutritional health and well-being of WIC mothers and children.

The proposed food packages will provide greater amounts of all of the priority nutrients currently identified as needed by the WIC population. They will supply a reliable and culturally acceptable source of supplemental nutritious foods as well as promote and support exclusive breastfeeding. Equally important, the proposals will provide WIC professionals with the necessary tools to reinforce the nutrition education messages and promote healthier food choices.

The long-term benefits of providing participants with fruits and vegetables, lower fat dairy products and whole grains, as well as additional incentives for fully breastfeeding women will greatly aid WIC in improving the life-long health of our most vulnerable women, infants and children.

I support this proposed change and encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

William Rambo
3982 Ardmore Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45229

GP-4299

From: Beier, Barbara [Barbara.Beier@snco.us]
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 6:05 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC food package rule

Please move ahead with the proposed changes in the WIC food package. Current nutritional concerns in the US are different than when the food package was developed 30+ years ago and the food package should be updated to correlate with this. The addition of fruits and vegetables to the food package along with the decrease in higher fat dairy foods is consistent with current concerns about obesity and the adjustments in the food packages for infants and women support efforts to encourage women to choose breastfeeding.

Please put health ahead of the interests of food manufacturers.

Thank You

GP-4300

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Friday, October 27, 2006 2:11 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME Chris
EMAIL: cpthor@adelphia.net
CITY thousand oaks
STATE ca
ORGANIZATION
CATEGORY GeneralPublic
OtherCategory
Date: October 27, 2006
Time 02:11 11 PM

COMMENTS:

Please make changes that will provide healthful and fresh items to people who need help obtaining them! I strongly support the proposed changes to the WIC food package

GP-4301

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 6.38 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Marilyn Herrmann
EMAIL: GrannyHerrmann@aol.com
CITY: Estes Park
STATE: CO
ORGANIZATION
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory:
Date: October 27, 2006
Time: 06:37 30 PM

COMMENTS:

I very strongly support the proposed changes to the WIC Food Package! Good health is vital for the future of our country's people. It is good to see positive changes in the program. Too often this program is subjected to cuts in financial aid. The least we can do is improve the quality of what can be done. Thank you!

GP-4302

From WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent Friday, October 27, 2006 3:29 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: dana johnson
EMAIL: danamadis@hotmail.com
CITY brattleboro
STATE vt
ORGANIZATION: wic
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory
Date October 27, 2006
Time 03 28 35 PM

COMMENTS:

Excellent idea! In my experience, both as being a single mom and working with the community, there is a high need for these types of foods. One thing that I have come across as a problem is that even having the aid of WIC and the use of a food pantry, there are not any fresh vegetables or fruits and most of the foods are processed and canned, making it extremely difficult to provide nutritious meals for a family. Also, in any stores these are some of the more expensive items and many times I would have to go with less healthy items do to price. I believe this is a great proposal and hope it works

GP-4303

From: nlawler@uark.edu
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 5:17 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: nlawler@uark.edu
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

The proposed changes to the WIC program are wonderful! I have been frustrated for quite a while because I felt that, while hardly anyone gets as good a diet as they could, poor people get an even worse diet, and partly because of various governmental regulations and programs!

As a person of faith, I find this appalling--we have a moral obligation to do better. The proposed changes bring WIC food packages more in line with the 2005 US Dietary Guidelines and other national nutrition guidance, including those of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We KNOW that we have a major problem in this country with obesity. We KNOW that diet is partly to blame for heart disease, diabetes, and many forms of cancer. It is downright immoral not to help women, infants, and children to eat the sort of diet that will give them some defenses later in life.

Hardly anyone--and poor people in particular--get enough fruit, vegetables, and whole grains. The changes in the WIC program will go a long way toward a remedy for this, as well as adding a greater variety of high-nutrient food in the form of soy products.

I am delighted by the proposed changes and fully support them!
Thank you

I encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007. These are wonderful changes--let's get them out there!

Sincerely,

Nan Lawler
68 S Kestrel Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72701

GP-4304

From: wicmch [wicmch@ncn.net]
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 11:54 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: WIC food package

In reference to the proposed WIC food package changes I am very much in favor of most of the changes. I think it is very necessary to reduce the amount of juice for children and provide fruits and vegetables instead. The provision of whole grain breads is a good change. However I am concerned about the reduction of infant formula for infants 6-12 months of age. I

GP-4305

From: bingham@alumni.wfu.edu
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 9:28 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: bingham@alumni.wfu.edu
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

My faith compels me to support programs that care for children. I support the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages.

The health and well-being of our nation's women, infants, and children should be a top priority of our government. About 125,000 people from my state of Virginia will benefit from these changes. The change will help vulnerable mothers and children.

The proposed rule closely reflects the science-based recommendations of the Institute of Medicine published in their April 2005 report entitled, WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change. They are also consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I support this proposed change and encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

Robert Powell
2806 Woodlawn Ave.
Roanoke, VA 24015

GP-4306

From: jwsmithcaz@aol.com
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 11.07 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: jwsmithcaz@aol.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels,

I worked in social work in north Georgia for almost 20 years. My clients and their families depended on the WIC program as they worked to become self-sustaining. I could see that many of them had little knowledge about diet and exercise. WIC has helped to change that too. The recent additions are great. Thanks for the good work.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Smith
P.O. Box 177
Lincoln, VA 20160

GP-4307

From. stohler1@bellsouth.net
Sent Friday, October 27, 2006 4:18 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Cc. stohler1@bellsouth.net
Subject Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I have seen what WIC does for some women with children who are trying to stabilize their lives. through my church I work with a program that helps women with children move from homelessness to permanent housing--it is a "tough love" program that has been successful with most of the families. I appreciate that you have improved the WIC packages and hope that the new guidelines will become effective soon. Thank you for helping the most needy in our society. A good nutritional start is so important for future health and learning of children.

Sincerely,

Sara Stohler
528 N Bloodworth St.
Raleigh, NC 27604

GP-4308

From: thediehard@sunnyfla.net
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 6:42 AM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: thediehard@sunnyfla.net
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages. The health and well-being of our nation's women, infants, and children should be a top priority of our government. The proposed changes will greatly benefit vulnerable mothers and children.

I would request that meat products also be reduced, to be replaced with beans and legumes, along with healthy spices such as garlic and herbs.

Sincerely,

D. H. Strong
Bismark Road
Cocoa, FL 32927

GP-4309

From: Otzma88@globaluprising.com
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 4:09 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Cc: Otzma88@globaluprising.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms Daniels,

As a concerned and caring United States citizen, I have long supported programs that care for children. I am writing to express my support for the proposed rule to change the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children food packages. The health and well-being of our nation's women, infants, and children should be a top priority of our government. The proposed changes will greatly benefit vulnerable mothers and children.

I am pleased that the proposed rule closely reflects the science-based recommendations of the Institute of Medicine published in their April 2005 report entitled, WIC Food Packages:

Time for a Change. The changes reflected in the proposed rule are also consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and national nutrition guidance including those from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I support this proposed change and encourage USDA to move for publication of a final rule by the spring of 2007 to assure timely implementation of the rule's invaluable changes.

Sincerely,

Arran Thomson
4613 NE 19th Ave
Portland, OR 97211

GP-4310

From evanewest@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2006 12:57 PM
To WICHQ-SFPD
Cc. evanewest@yahoo.com
Subject: Docket ID Number 0584-AD77, WIC Food Packages Rule

Dear Ms. Daniels,

As a former beneficiary of the WIC program, I have to tell you how important it was to me. My wife and I made the very difficult decision, financially, for her to stay home with our first son.

Considering that I was a first year teacher at the time this was, needless to say, a decision that caused substantial financial hardship to my family.

The WIC program made it possible for us to provide our son with nutritious foods and made it possible for us to pay the bills

More importantly than that, it allowed our son to have the benefit of his mother being home

You must do whatever you can to preserve this program. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENACTED!

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments

Sincerely,

Evan West
340 National Hwy
LaVale, MD 21502

GP-4311

From: WebMaster@fns.usda.gov
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2006 10:35 PM
To: WICHQ-SFPD
Subject: RevisionstoWICFoodPackages-Proposed Rule

NAME: Michele Karver
EMAIL: kierkar@psualum.com
CITY: West Chester
STATE: PA
ORGANIZATION:
CATEGORY: GeneralPublic
OtherCategory.
Date: October 29, 2006
Time: 10 34 35 PM

COMMENTS.

I support changes in the WIC program that promote breastfeeding information over formula funding. It is only right for our government to support a method of feeding our nation's most vulnerable children that will give them the best possible start towards good health.